Season's Greetings

From The O'Connor Family

An American Family's Journey through Life
as told by their Christmas Letters, 1966 - 2017





Season's Greetings:

The Journey of an American Family's Life as told through Christmas Letters, 1966-2017

1963: Joni Clever and John O'Connor met while skiing in Aspen, Colorado.

1964: Joni, a Girl Scout professional working in Gary, Indiana, moved to Colorado to work for the Girl Scouts Mile-Hi Council in Denver and serve as Director of their *Tomahawk Ranch Summer Camp.*

1965: John, an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, wrote to & communicated with Joni long-distance.

1966: Joni and John were married in Mooseheart's *House of God* near Batavia, Illinois, her home town. The newlyweds honeymooned in Aspen; their son,Tom, was born ten months later.

Starting in 1966, the Christmas greetings (for years, hand-lettered) were prepared to maintain contact with out-of-town friends. Local friends did not receive these letters.

1969: Our daughter, Heather, completes our family.

1975: The family moves to Columbia, Missouri -- and visits Disney World.

1996: The end of the hand-drawn era for our letters. After 31 years, we resorted to an Apple computer and a color printer.

2007: The torch is passed. Tom now authors his own brand of Annual Report, written for a new generation of friends. Sent by e-mail, his environmentally-friendly essays are richly-illustrated and include *'links'* to videos of various happenings.

2008: The Old'Connors no longer send their greetings via snail-mail. While the quality of its content may be diminishing, the wishes it conveys are still heartfelt.

Season's Greetings

An American Family's Journey through Life as told by their Christmas Letters, *1966 - 2018*

Table of Contents

1966 - The Journey Begins: Batavia, Illinois; Aspen, Colorado; Urbana, Illinois
1967 - Baby Tom sets up playpen in Sudbury, Massachusetts
1968 - Tent Camping at Cape Hatteras; drying out in Washington, D.C.
1969 - Baby Heather goes on sabbatical: Newtonville, Massachusetts
1970 - Work and Family Life in Urbana, Illinois
1971 - Touring the Colorado Rockies & the Southwest; San Francisco & the Bay Area
1972 - Summer at Montana State University: Bozeman, Montana, Yellowstone & the Tetons
1973 - Around Lake Michigan: Ann Arbor & Muskegon - A Sewage Treatment Vacation
1974 - Sampling the Snowy Peaks of Utah: Alta, Snowbird, and Park City
1975 - Crossing the Mississippi to Columbia, Missouri
1976 - A Taste of New Orleans; the Sight of Sewage in San Diego
1977 - Adventures in North Dakota, Philadelphia, and Silver Dollar City, Missouri
1978 - Family Skiing at Breckenridge, Colorado
1979 - The Coastal Redwoods to Otter Rock, Oregon
1980 - See Naples (Florida) and Live; A tour of America's Southland
1981 - Sunset Beach, North Carolina and the Intracoastal Waterway
1982 - Meet me in Saint Louis
1983 - Waging Water in Las Vegas; Kansas City, "City of Fountains"
1984 - Saint Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands - "America's Paradise"
1985 - Santa Domingo, Republica, Dominicana - "Oldest City in the New World"
1986 - Montego Bay, Jamaica - "No Problem"
1987 - Water Research Labs: Utrecht, Netherlands; Paris, France; Zurich, Switzerland
1988 - СССР, "Перестройка", "Гласност"; Barbados (bearded fig tree)
1989 - Tom's band tours; Heather tours Europe; 'rents tour Door Peninsula, Wisconsin
1990 - Christchurch, New Zealand - "The most wonderful year of our life!"

1991 - Jogging and biking along the Missouri River (Katy) Trail

1992 - Diaspora: Heather to Montana; Tom's midwest music tour; 'rents to Champaign, IL

1993 - Little Rock, Arkansas; San Antonio, Texas; San Juan, Puerto Rico

1994 - Waste Lecture Tours: Taiwan, Republic of China; Parquera, Puerto Rico

1995 - San Juan Islands, Washington; Vancouver, British Columbia; ΕΛΛΑΣ, Greece

1996 - Copenhagen, Denmark; Willmar, Minnesota; Midwestern Mega-Hog Farms

1997 - Natchidoches, Louisiana and the Southeastern U.S.; Washington, D.C.

1998 - Family reunited in Columbia, Missouri

1999 - Wildfoods Festival - Hokitika, New Zealand; Duluth, Minnesota & Lake Superior

2000 - Republica de Costa Rica for the Y2K Millenium

2001 - Niagara Falls, Cape Cod, Nova Scotia & 225 miles of the Missouri River Trail

2002 - Wyoming & Colorado; Florence & Cinque Terre National Park, Italy

2003 - Rotary International dispatches Tom to Japan

2004 - New Zealand (winter); Canadian Maritime Provinces (summer); Montreal

2005 - NYC for The Golden Cooper reUnion; Bicycling *in Sweden*

2006 - We celebrate the marriage of Tom and Diana

2007 - We celebrate the marriage of Heather and John

2007 - Tom creates his - and Diana's - first annual report; also, a water project in India

2008 - Diana guides the old folks on a tour of England and, because it was nearby, Rome

2008 - In addition to Italy and the UK, Tom recounts trips to Vermont, Texas, & Chicago

2009 - A tale of three cities: Washington, Chicago, New York

2009 - Tom works up a video report for 2009: Chicago, Kansas City, Salt Lake City

2010 - Barcelona, Spain; Siracusa, Sicily; Aeolian Island of Lipari; Sitges, Spain

2010 - No theme - just Mexico, Switzerland, & Rome

2011 - Joni occupies Colorado & Newfoundland when not occupying New York City

2011 - Amsterdam for 'the Roast'; Diana weighs in with her own segments of the report; Eastern Europe: Berlin to Prague; London & Preston, England

2012 - Arctic Circle: Svalbard; Norway; Missouri Botanical Garden; Tall Ships, Baltimore

2013 - The Old'Connors in Ireland

2014 - The Alaska 'Uncruise' and The Big Apple

2015 - Our Fiftieth 'Season's Greetings'; the Grand Canyon', San Francisco and Iceland

2016 - Adventures in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia & Russia; Autumn in Colorado

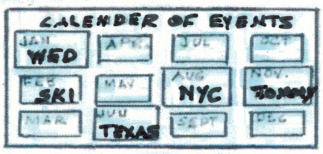
2017 - The Total Eclipse brings visitors to Columbia, MO.

OUR WARMEST  GREETINGS TO YOU DURING THIS

HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

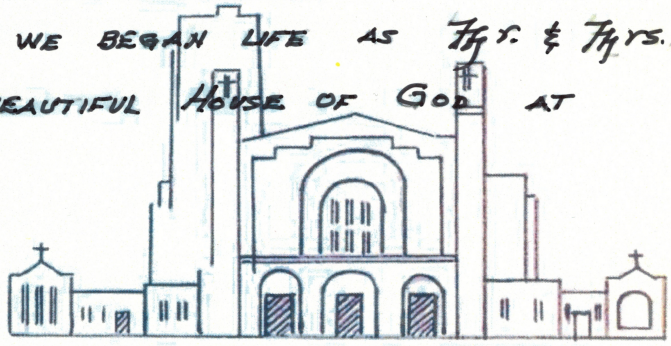


1966

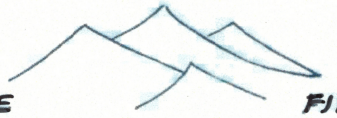
HAS BEEN AN EVENTFUL 

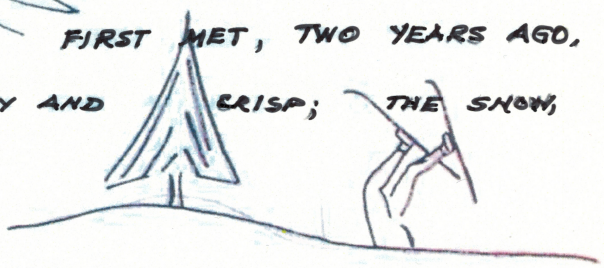
YEAR FOR US

ON JANUARY 15, WE BEGAN LIFE AS Mr. & Mrs. WE WERE MARRIED IN THE BEAUTIFUL HOUSE OF GOD AT MOOSEHEART, ILLINOIS.

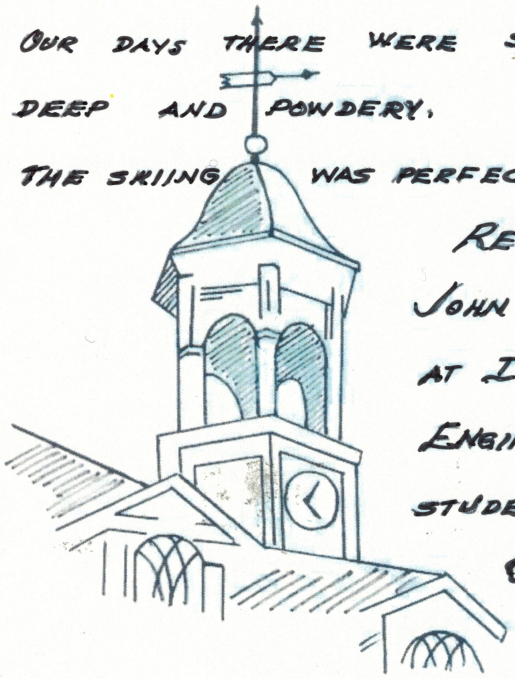


WE HAD A GLORIOUS THREE WEEK WEDDING TRIP TO ASPEN, COLORADO, THE SKI RESORT WHERE WE FIRST MET, TWO YEARS AGO. OUR DAYS THERE WERE SUNNY AND CRISP; THE SNOW, DEEP AND POWDERY. THE SKIING WAS PERFECT.





RETURNING TO THE UNIVERSITY, JOHN RESUMED TEACHING (HIS 5th YEAR AT ILLINOIS, DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING). I ENROLLED AS A STUDENT AND TOOK COURSES IN GERMAN (SEHR SCHWER) AND ART HISTORY.



MY LOVE FOR GIRL SCOUTING (I WAS A PROFESSIONAL GIRL SCOUT WORKER FOR 4½ YEARS BEFORE GETTING MARRIED.) LED ME TO BECOME NEIGHBORHOOD CHAIRMAN IN AN URBANA NEIGHBORHOOD IN WHICH WE DON'T LIVE.

IN ADDITION, I BECAME ACTIVE IN THE ALUMNI CHAPTER OF MY SORORITY, SIGMA KAPPA, AND WITH CIVIL ENGINEERING WIVES.

JOHN, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS OFTEN BUSY OUT-OF-TOWN. HE SPRINKLED HIS YEAR LIBERALLY WITH TRIPS TO CONVENTIONS, USUALLY IN ORDER TO PRESENT A PAPER. IN TWO INSTANCES, I ACCOMPANIED HIM. IN JUNE, WE PURCHASED A TENT AND CAMPING ACCESSORIES FOR A TRIP TO TEXAS, VIA MISSOURI AND OKLAHOMA; FOLLOWED BY A RETURN TRIP THROUGH LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, AND KENTUCKY.

A HIGH SPOT OF THE TRIP WAS NEW ORLEANS (BOAT RIDES, OYSTERS, FRENCH QUARTER, NIGHTLIFE, A PLAY, LUXURY MOTEL SWIMMING POOL.)

LATER, IN SEPTEMBER, WE DROVE TO NYC VIA ONTARIO, CANADA, NEW YORK FINGER LAKES, VERMONT, CAPE COD AND CONNECTICUT. JOHN PRESENTED A PAPER AT THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK WHILE I SHOPPED. TOGETHER, WE DINED IN ELEGANT RESTAURANTS AND SAW TWO BROADWAY SHOWS ('THE ODD COUPLE' AND 'SWEET CHARITY').

WE ALSO VISITED MY BROTHER AND SISTER-IN-LAW IN SOUTH ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS, AS WELL AS FRIENDS WHO HAD JUST MOVED TO DELAWARE.

JOHN ENJOYED THE TRIP TO NEW YORK, HIS HOME TOWN, IMMENSELY. THE CAR RADIO WAS ALWAYS TUNED TO HIS FAVORITE RADIO STATION, WQXR.



This past year has been filled with many blessings, the greatest of which was the birth of our son,

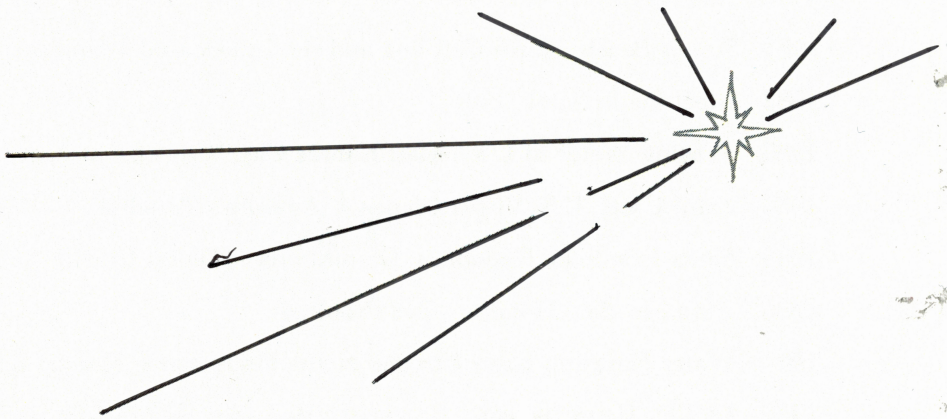
Thomas Lynn,

on November 15.

He is, of course, a redhead and the most precious bundle one could hope for.

This indeed will be a most joyous Christmas for us, and we sincerely hope it will be for you also.

The O'Connors

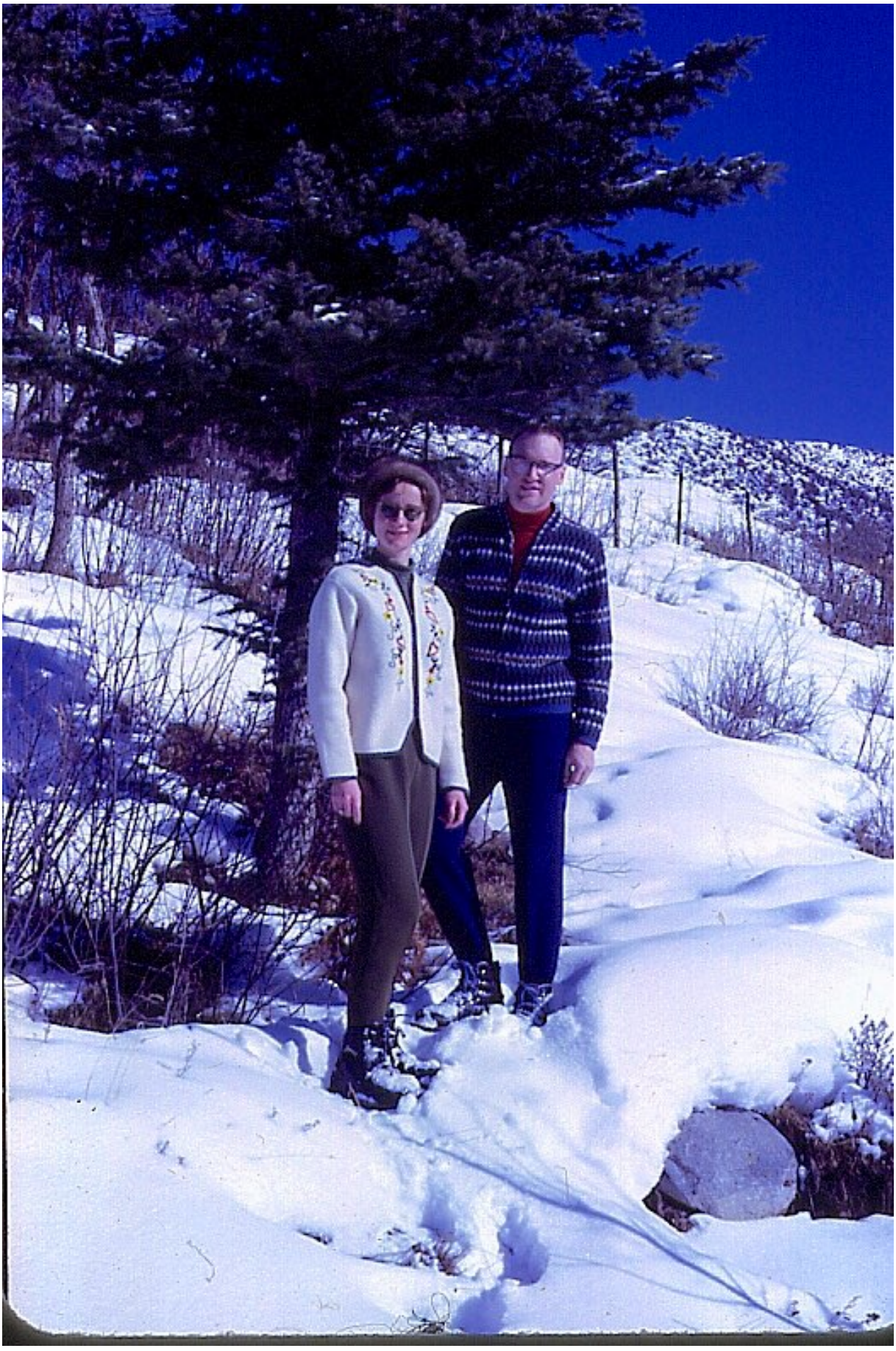














OUR WARMEST GREETINGS TO YOU

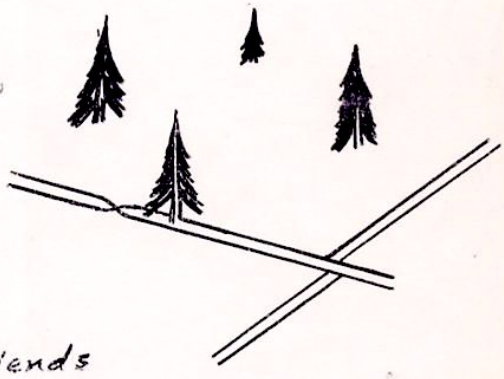
DURING THIS HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.



has been another exciting year for us. Little Tommy made it our first as a family. He was responsible in some ways for diminishing the pace of the previous year. However, he has turned our house into a real home (by messing it up).

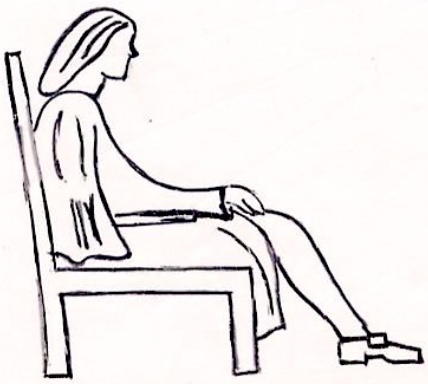


In the early spring of the year we again returned to Aspen, the skiing paradise where we met and honeymooned.



After our vacation, John gave a seminar at the Univ. of Colorado while I visited with my friends and former co-workers at the Mile-Hi Girl Scout Council.



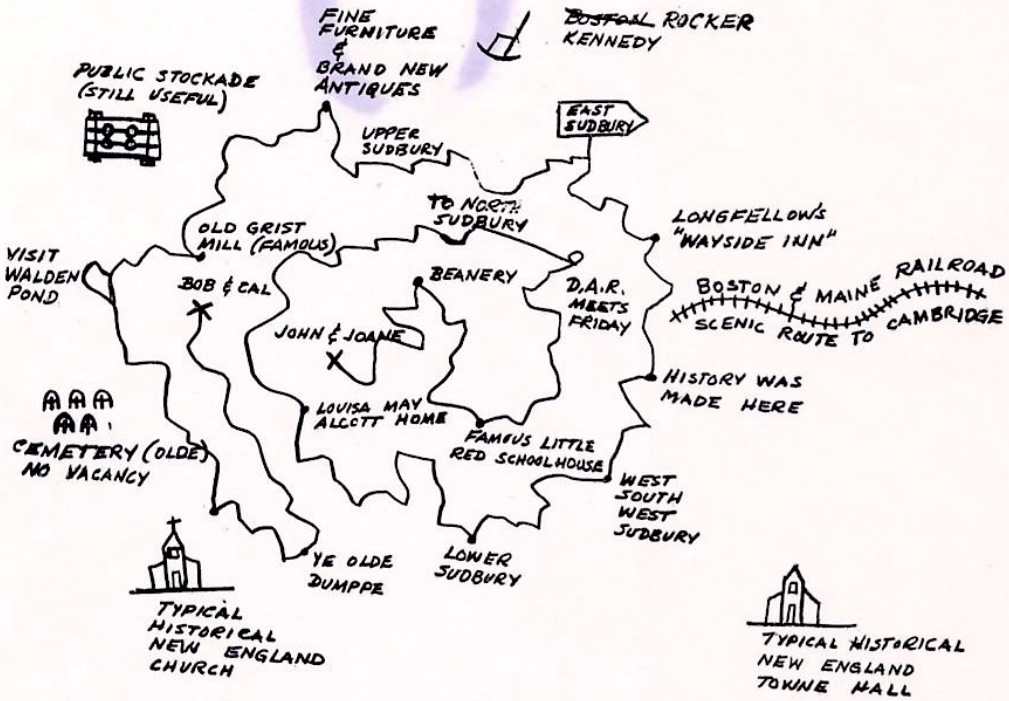


During the summer we lived for five weeks in the delightful, rural New England town of Sudbury, Massachusetts.

We rented a furnished Cape Cod home on a wooded acre while John studied water chemistry at Harvard.



My parents visited us in Sudbury and, in turn, we all visited my brother and sister-in-law frequently as they lived only 13 crooked miles from us.



MAP OF KENNEDY - LAND

Back in the Land of Lincoln, we were delighted to have, as house guest for a few days, my great-aunt "Tina" from Vienna. She is 84, speaks no English, and is the most alert, cheerful, and adventuresome octogenarian we had ever seen. We showed Aunt Tina all the sights of Champaign-Urbana (corn, cows, beans, etc.). Typically, she saw beauty in it all. She was enthralled.

I am still in Girl Scouting as Neighborhood Chairman. This summer I helped at Day Camp while Grandma O'Connor chased around the house and yard after Tommy. This year I am also vice-president of the Sigma Kappa sorority alum chapter.

John started a new research project this year. He will try to make a pill which will disinfect canteen quantities of water. Project work has taken him to Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. I accompanied him to only one conference this year -- in Chicago, but John went to several others, even spending a week in N.Y.C.

As of this writing, Tommy is beginning to toddle and climb. He drags John or me around the house by our index fingers. His crawling approaches the speed of lightning. He thumps, bumps, stumbles and tumbles around the house damaging the furniture, furnishings, and himself. Despite the destruction, we plan to keep him, at least until next year.

This should indeed be a most joyous Christmas in our home. We sincerely hope it will be for you also.



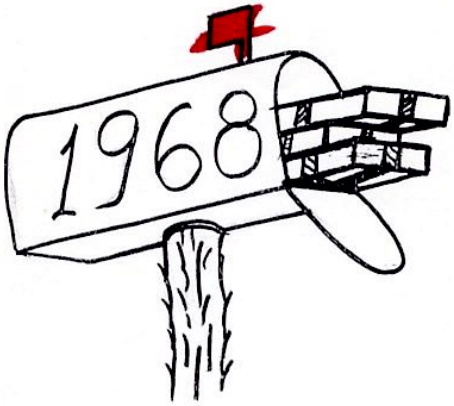
the O'Connors

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."
Matthew 2:10



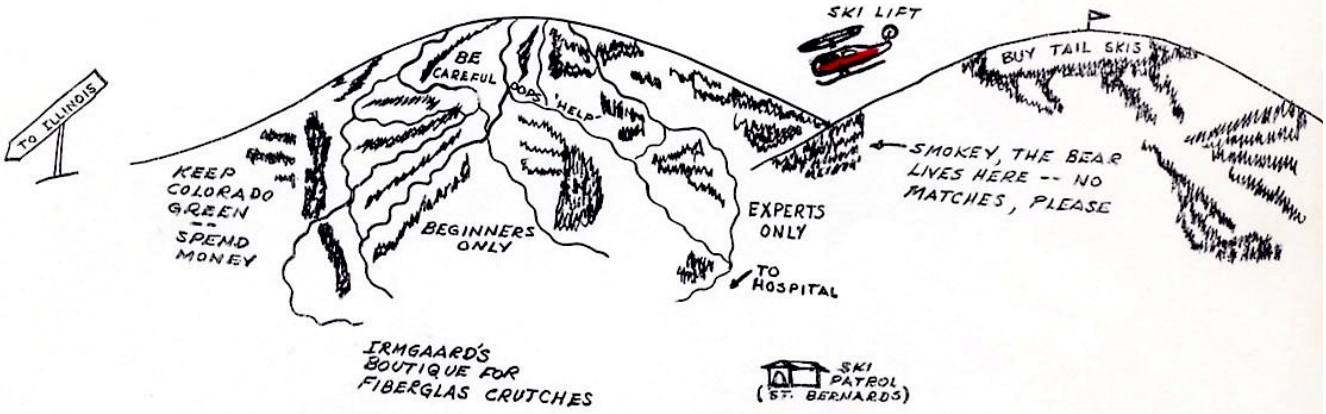


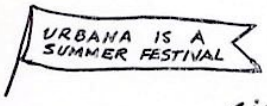
With Warmest Greetings
to you during this
Happy Holiday Season



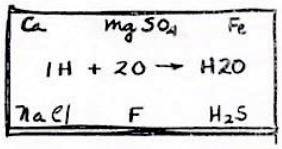
has been another happy year for us.

We began the year, as usual, with a trip to Aspen for skiing. We skied the new area at Snowmass and found it to be delightful. The slopes are broad and uncrowded. The view can be justly described as magnificent.





We spent the summer in Urbana as, for the first time, John taught a summer course in water chemistry.

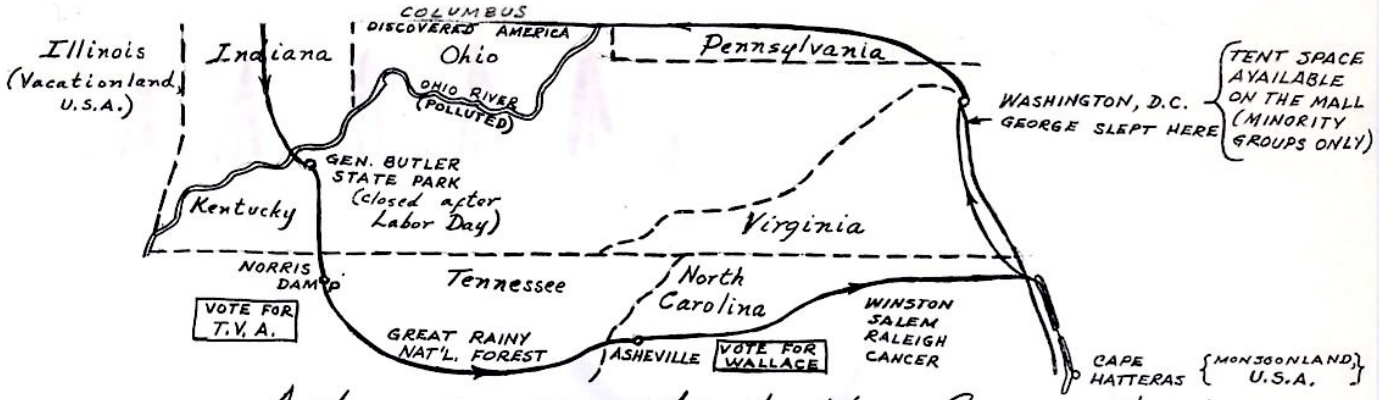






We set out for vacation after Labor Day. It rained continually for three days as we followed a "frontal system" eastward towards Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.





After we arrived at the Cape, it began to rain in earnest. For three days, our interest in meteorology and weather forecasting grew until, finally, our tent blew down. At 4 A.M., high winds and heavy rains flattened the tent.



We gathered up our soggy belongings in the downpour and struck out for Washington, D.C., where we visited all the places that inveterate tourists visit. It was delightful.

- ☑ Jefferson Memorial
- ☑ Nat'l. Gallery of Art
- ☑ National Zoo
- ☑ Washington Monument
- ☑ Lincoln Memorial
- ☑ Tidal Basin
- ☑ Capitol Building
- ☑ Smithsonian Inst.
- ☑ Hogate's Seafood Rest.
- ☐ Internal Revenue

Upon our return from the eastern rain-forests, I decided to become a student again. I'm currently enrolled in a graduate course and a seminar in Recreation and Park Administration.



John is still doing research on water treatment; iron removal and disinfection. Reporting on this work keeps him moving.







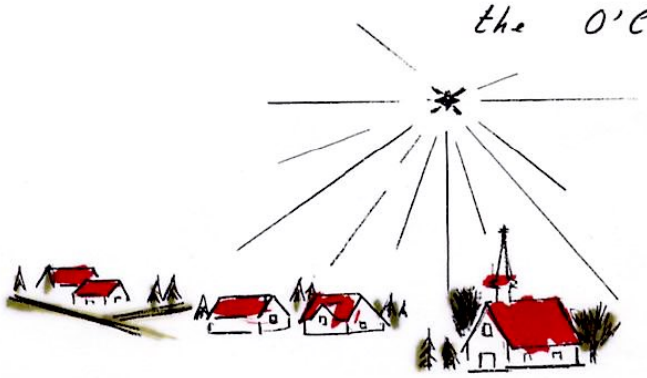
At two years, Tommy's piano recitals, including vocalizations, are priceless. In February, his appreciative audience will increase by one with the arrival of his baby "brover" or "sisser".



Again this year we'll be celebrating Christmas in Batavia with my folks. We expect that this will be a joyous Christmas for us.

We sincerely hope that it will be for you also.

the O'Connor's



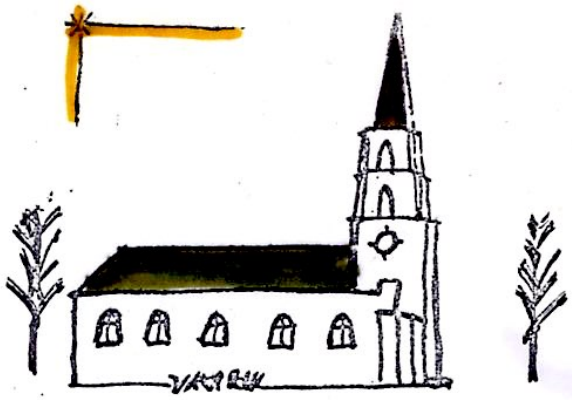
"Rejoice -- and be exceeding glad --"

Matthew 5:12





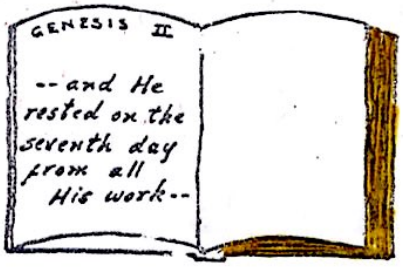




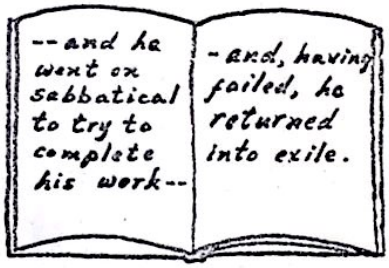
Our Best Wishes to you during this Happy Holiday Season

On February 3, 1969, we celebrated the birth of our baby daughter, Heather. She arrived on the day of her Grandpa Clever's sixtieth birthday. With the advent of this little female, our family had achieved numerical balance, if not equilibrium or tranquility.

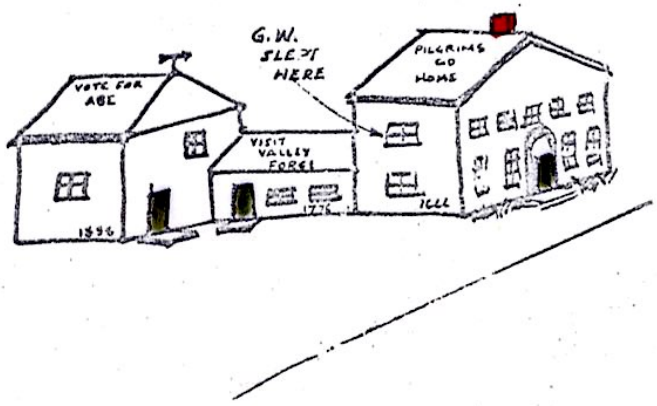




In August, we packed all of our belongings (Tommy, Heather & the TV),

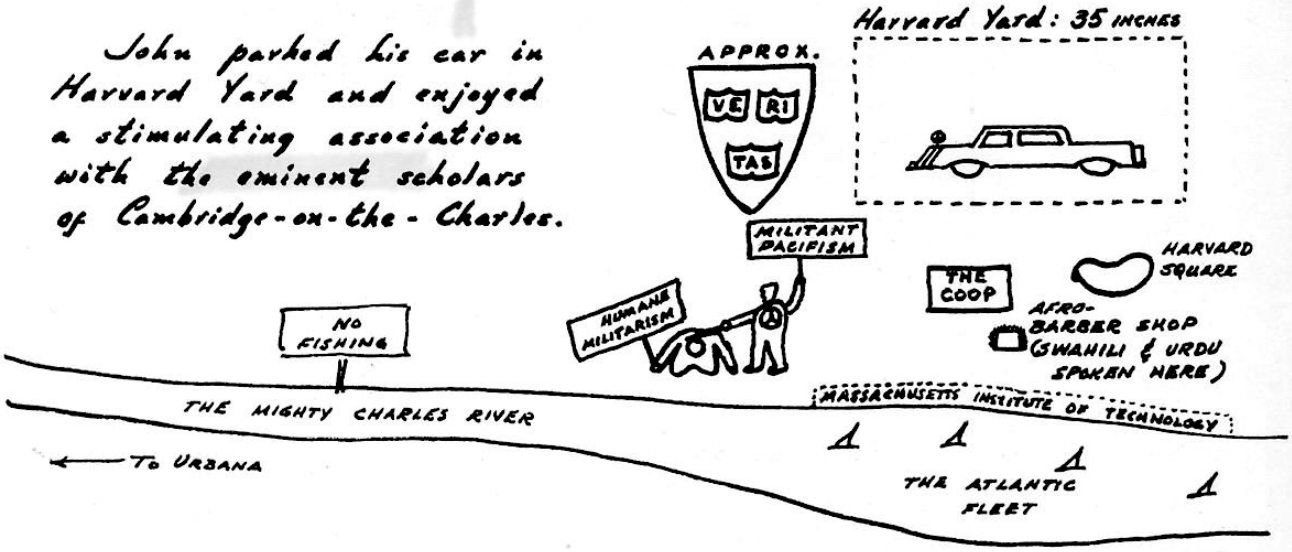


and headed towards historical New England. We settled in the greater Boston metropolitan area; home of the MBTA, the codfish, the baked bean, and the professor-on-sabbatical.



Our 200+ year old home wreaked of history and creaked of infirmity. A new sense of age made us realize that our Urbana home, ancient by Illinois standards, was really modern and youthful -- at 60+. Grandma O'Connor was preserving its youth in our absence.

John parked his car in Harvard Yard and enjoyed a stimulating association with the eminent scholars of Cambridge-on-the-Charles.

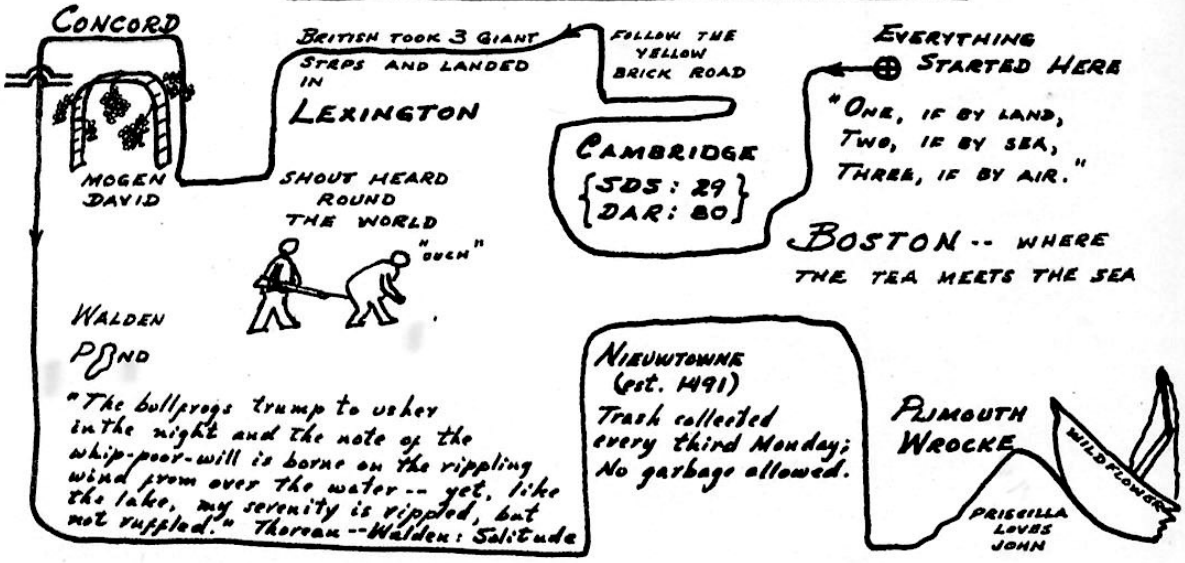


Tommy initiated his academic career by enrolling in nursery school. So far, he is doing well in nuclear physics, but is having difficulty with spelling.

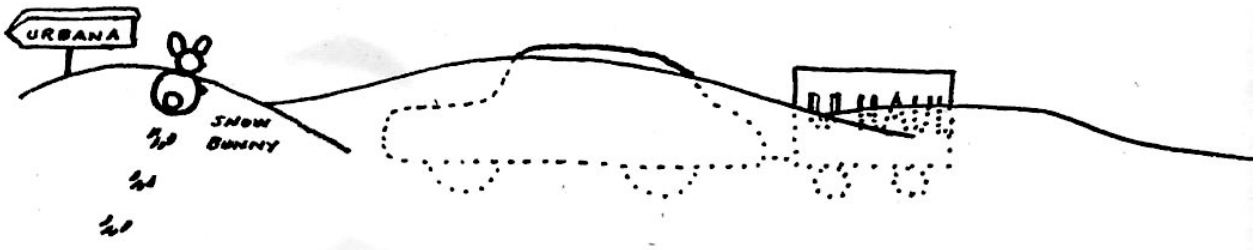


We spent many happy days travelling around the New England countryside during the autumn season. In time, we came to learn some of the history of our nation's birthplace.

Tour of Historyland, U.S.A.



In January, we'll be trudging back to Urbana (hopefully, not through the six-foot snowdrifts which added untold beauty to the New England landscape last winter).



This year, however, we will be celebrating Christmas in Newtonville. We expect that this will be a joyous Christmas for us. We hope that it will be for you also.

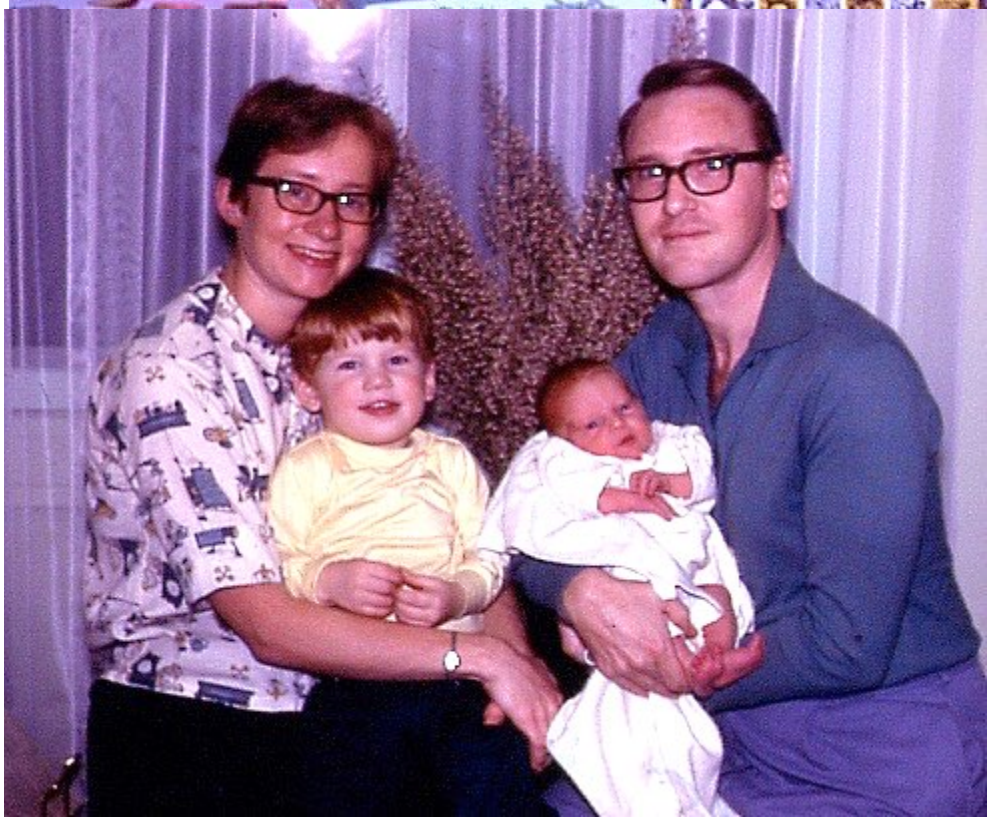
the O'Connor's



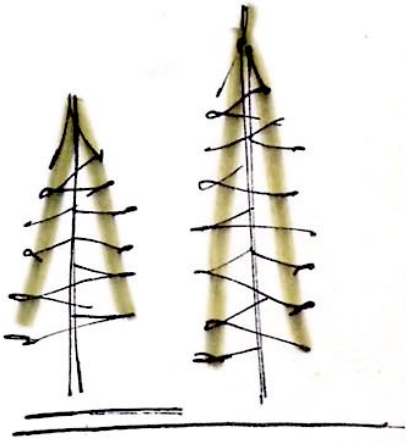
"Let us cast aside the pretense of sturdy men, and live, if only for a day, in the hope and joy we knew as children."

Christmas prayer
by an unknown author

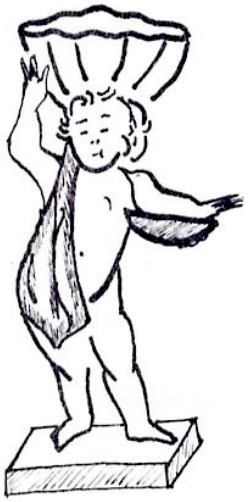






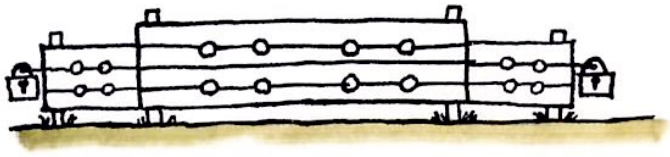


We gratefully acknowledge the gift of another year of peace and tranquility.

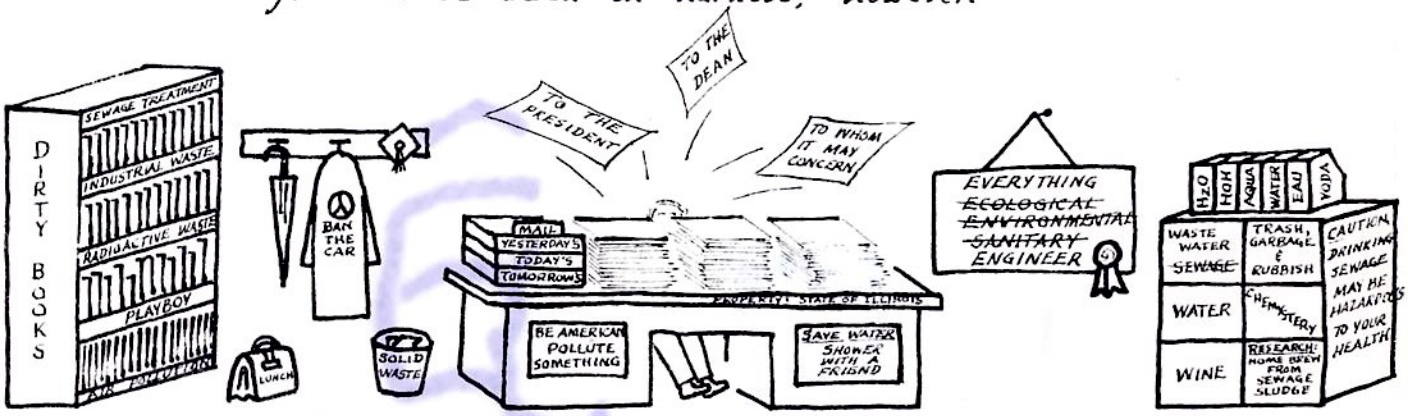


Sale! Price includes bird, soap & towel.

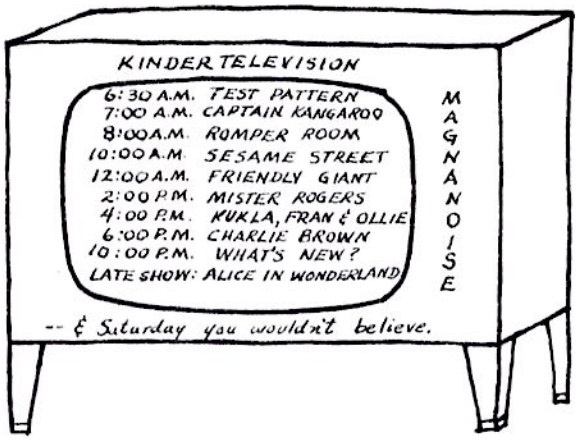
We returned from our too-short sabbatical leave late in January with an 18th Century Italian cupid birdbath, a statue of baby St. Francis and other nonessentials accumulated during our five-month stay in Massachusetts. More important, we returned with a new perspective of life in the Bay colony.



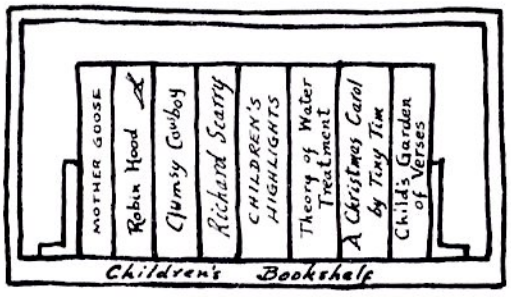
On returning to the University, John found things just as he had left them, except for the accumulation of new paper which had progressed unabated during his absence. He seemed glad to be back in harness, however.

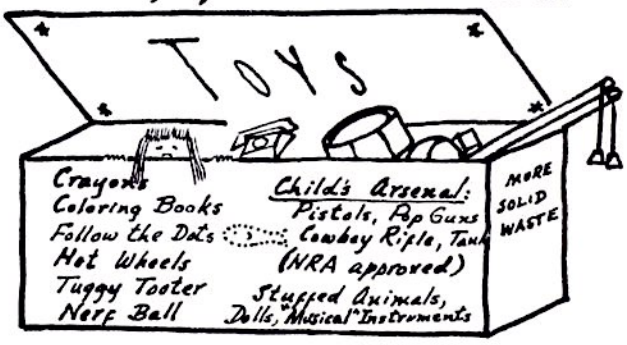


The University must have been pleased also, as they promoted him to full, or to use his term, "pool" professor.



Our Raggedy's, Tommy (4) and Heather (almost 2) conspired to bring new elements of noise, conflict and happiness into our home. Thanks to their activities, the family acquired a full range of new interests plus the mass of impedimenta deemed essential for the rearing of the modern child.





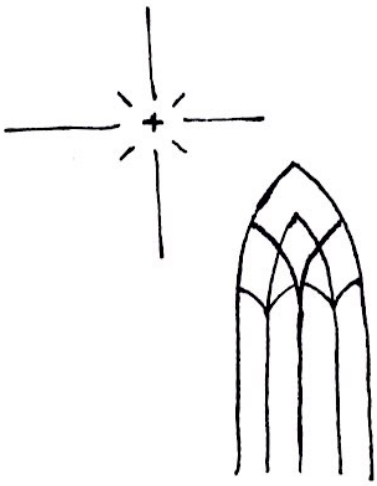
John's Babysitting Schedule

Mon. -- Class
Tues. -- AAUW
Weds. -- Girl Scouts
Thurs. -- HIPS
Fri. -- Bowling
Sat. -- Bridge
Sun. -- Rest from week of Recreation

For my part, I continued work towards an M.S. degree in Park Administration and Recreation. Progress is slow, but the work is fun. I also joined some women's clubs: American Association of University Women, Housewives Interested in Pollution Solutions (HIPS), as part of my effort to save the world.

My interest in Girl Scouting is unabated. I came out of retirement to work at Day Camp this past summer. Tommy & Heather romped in the "Papoose" unit, as I led the silver-throated Brownies in song.





And, in the New Year --

"May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand."

An Irish Blessing





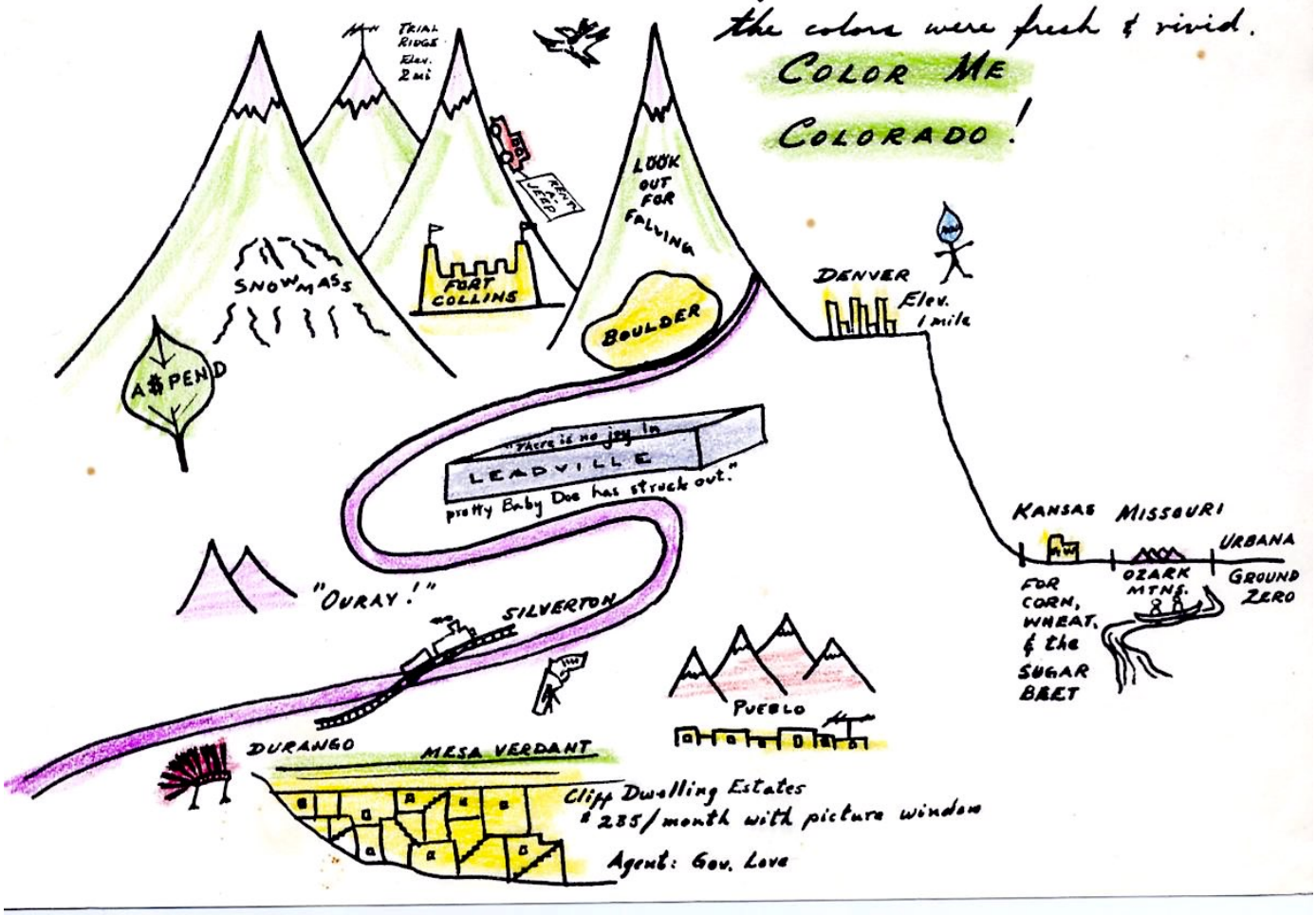


"We Wish You a Merry Christmas!"

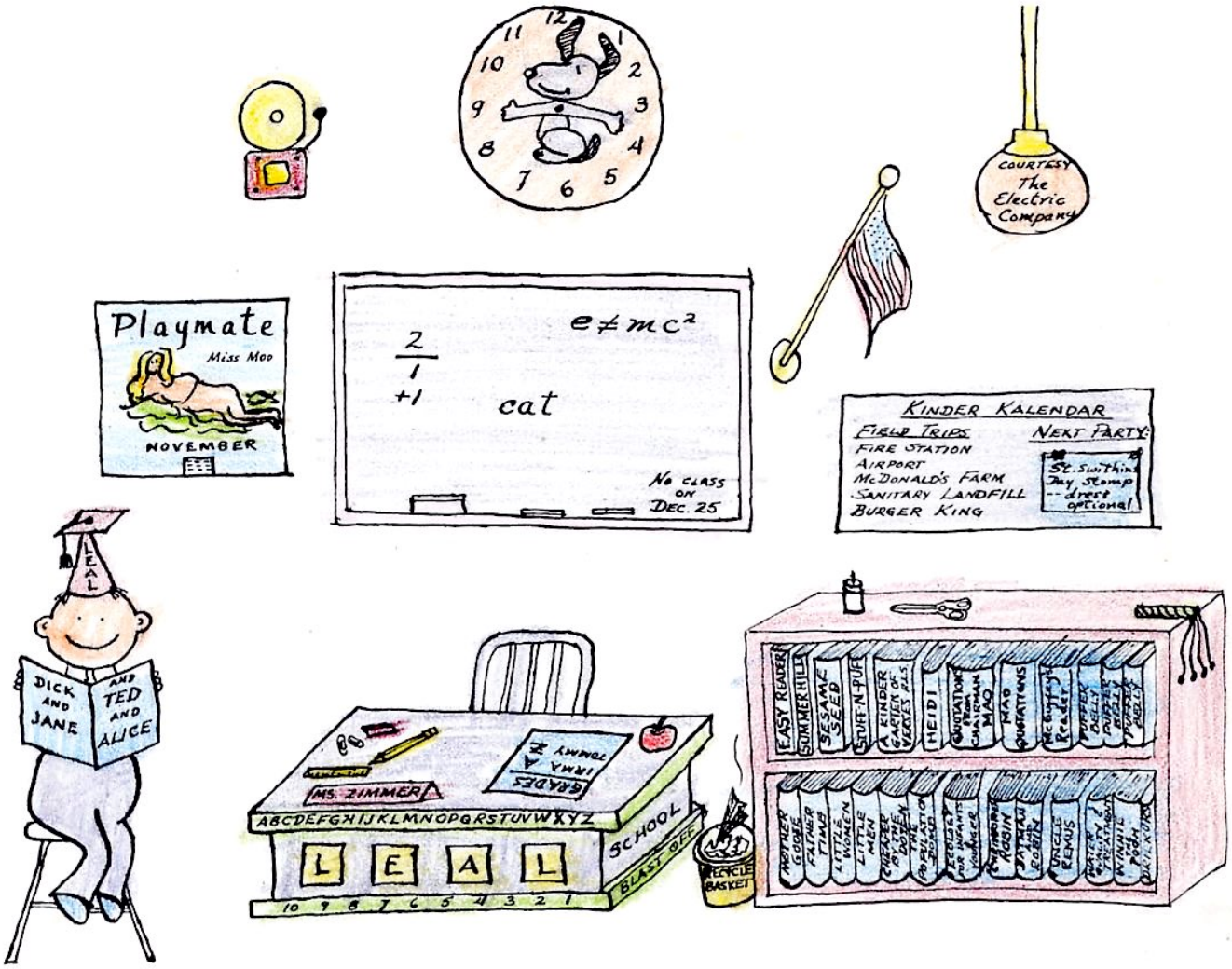
We have enjoyed many blessings during the past year... simple ones... such as health, happiness and love. We sincerely hope that a measure of these simple blessings has come your way also.

One of the HIGH points of our year was reached in June after Tommy, Heather and I helped John attend a waterworks conference in Colorado. It was spring in the Rockies and the colors were fresh & vivid.

Color Me Colorado!



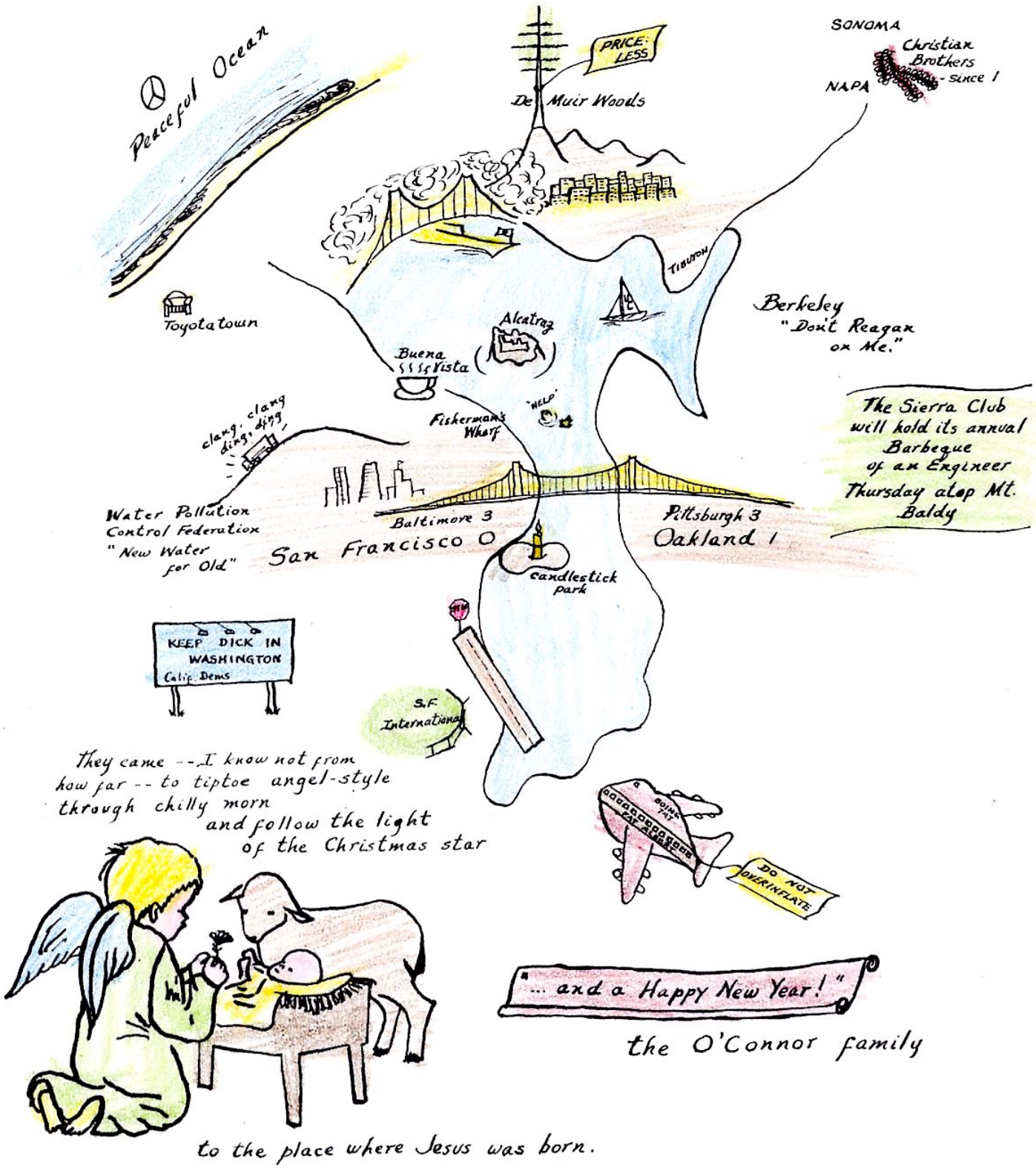
Tommy started Kindergarten in September. In his absence Heather finally got her chance to dominate the household. We got our chance to join the P.T.A.



In October, Grandma & Grandpa Clever took charge of Tommy & Heather so John & I could travel to San Francisco. John was attending a conference on pollution control. We found time to look at the city, Bay, ocean, northern peninsula, Muir woods and wine country. However, John missed seeing the local ~~sewage treatment plants.~~ water pollution control facilities.

I was thrilled by the flight and the trip as it was the first time I had ever been west of Colorado.

San Francisco Guidebook

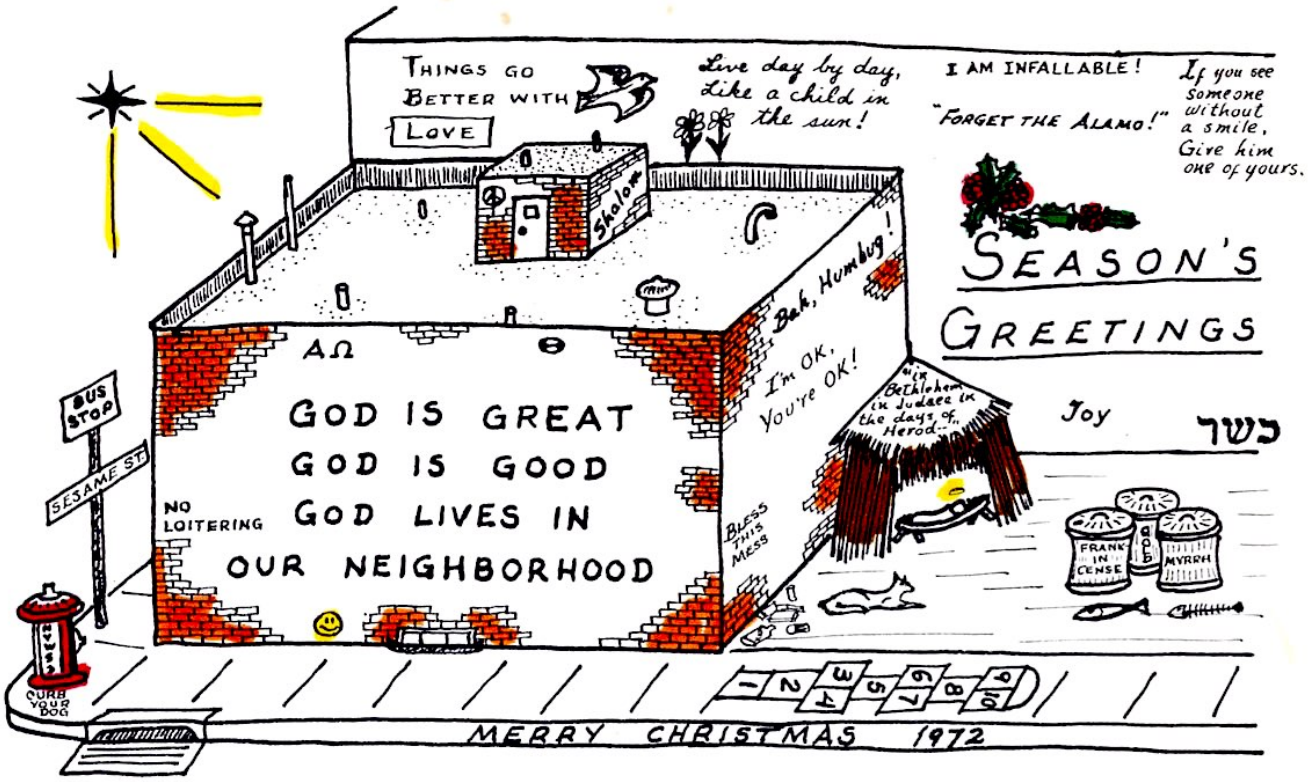








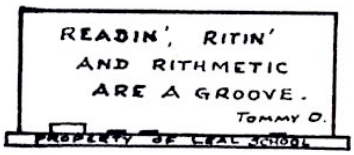




We are grateful to report that 1972 has been a happy year for us. We hope it has been the same for you.

This year, Tommy played his way through kindergarten and into first grade. Despite less play and more responsibility, he likes it.

Heather has, at last, been liberated from a daily routine of "Life with Mother." She is now enrolled in



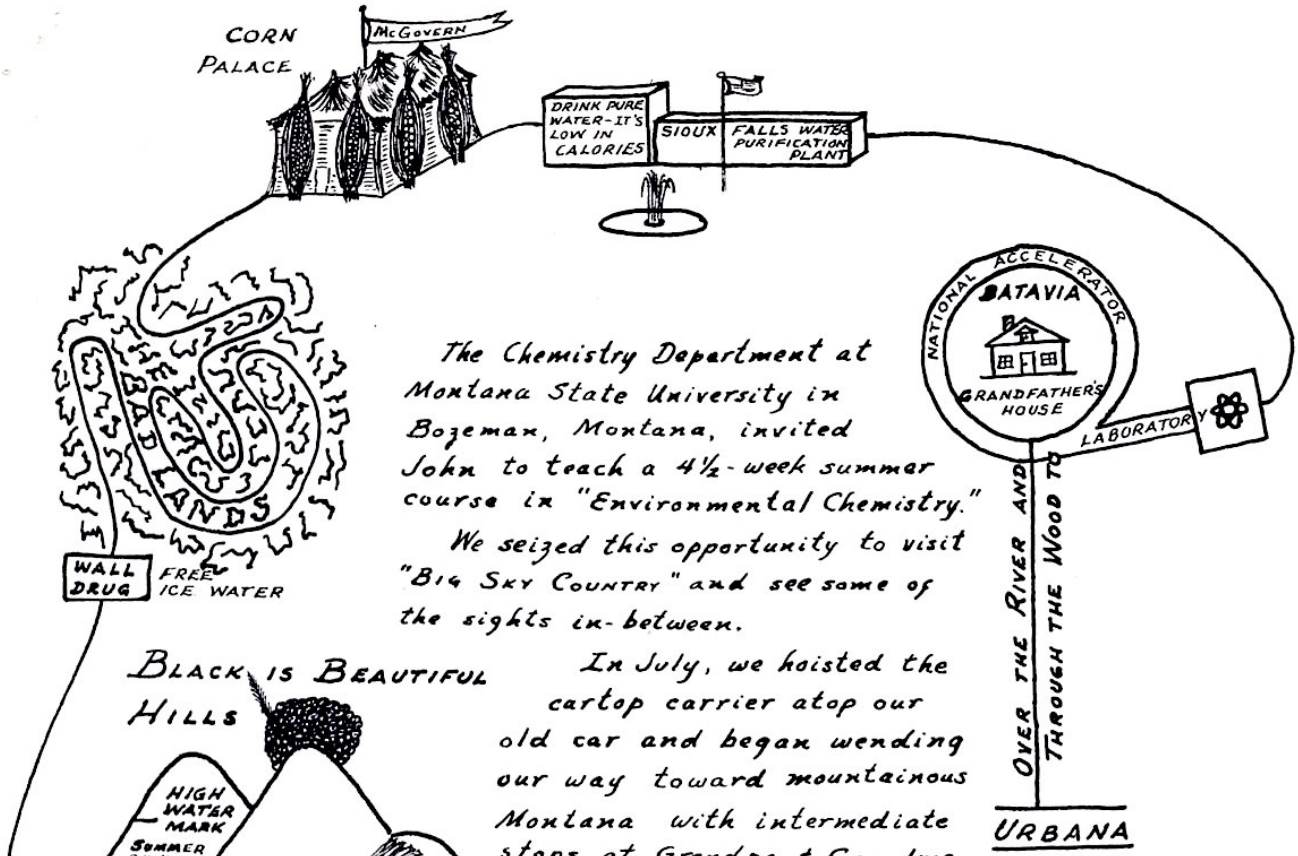
JACK AND JILL PLAYSCHOOL.

With guidance from Tommy, himself an alumnus of Jack & Jill, she has learned how to pack a tremendous amount of play into her 2½-hour daily session.

In June, Tommy and Heather joined the "Papoose Unit" at the Girl Scout Day Camp while I taught, sang and learned a few new songs.

During the year, the children diverted the family's cultural and recreational activities into other channels, notably N.E.T.





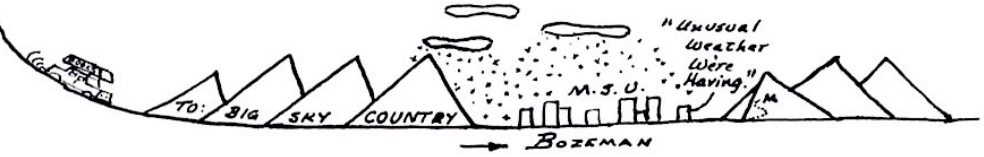
The Chemistry Department at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, invited John to teach a 4½-week summer course in "Environmental Chemistry."

We seized this opportunity to visit "Big Sky Country" and see some of the sights in-between.

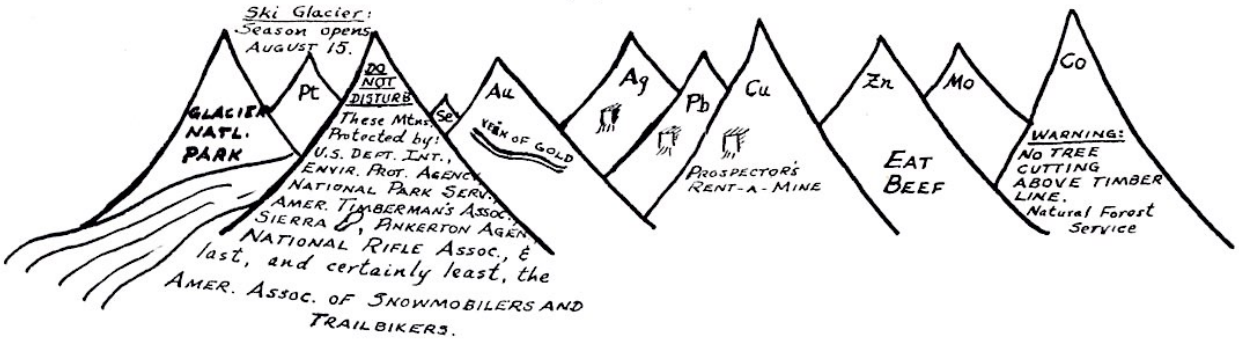
In July, we hoisted the cartop carrier atop our old car and began wending our way toward mountainous Montana with intermediate stops at Grandpa & Grandma Clever's, Tomah, Wisconsin, and the water purification plant at Sioux Falls, S.D.

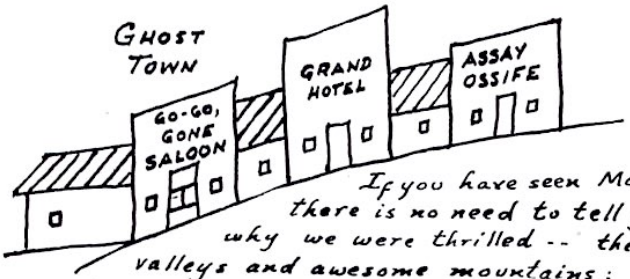
South Dakota was filled with delightful surprises such as the Corn Palace, the beautiful Badlands and the glorious Black Hills. We dallied in the Black Hills for several days of hiking and sightseeing. Evidence of the terrible damage from the early summer floods was already being obscured by the fresh, vivid growth.

Following a trip on an "1880" train to Custer City and a peanut-throwing orgy at the "Meller Drammer" in Rockerville, we pushed on to Montana. We arrived in Bozeman on July 19 and it snowed. The hardy Montaneers said that it was unusual weather for that time of year.

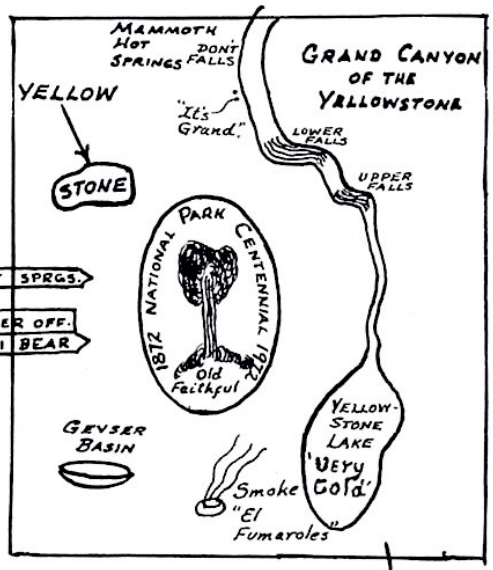


MONTANA



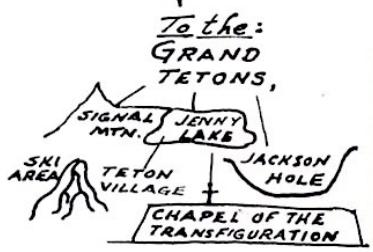


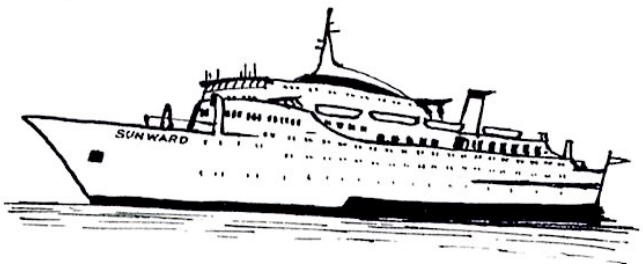
If you have seen Montana, there is no need to tell you why we were thrilled -- the plains, valleys and awesome mountains; towering pine trees; cascades of water plummeting through rocky channels; fields of delicate, rocky mountain wildflowers rising to the base of rocky, barren peaks; snow fields and glaciers; thermal areas; abandoned mines and ghost towns; sprawling cattle ranches; and a vast isolation for the fisherman, prospector and poet.



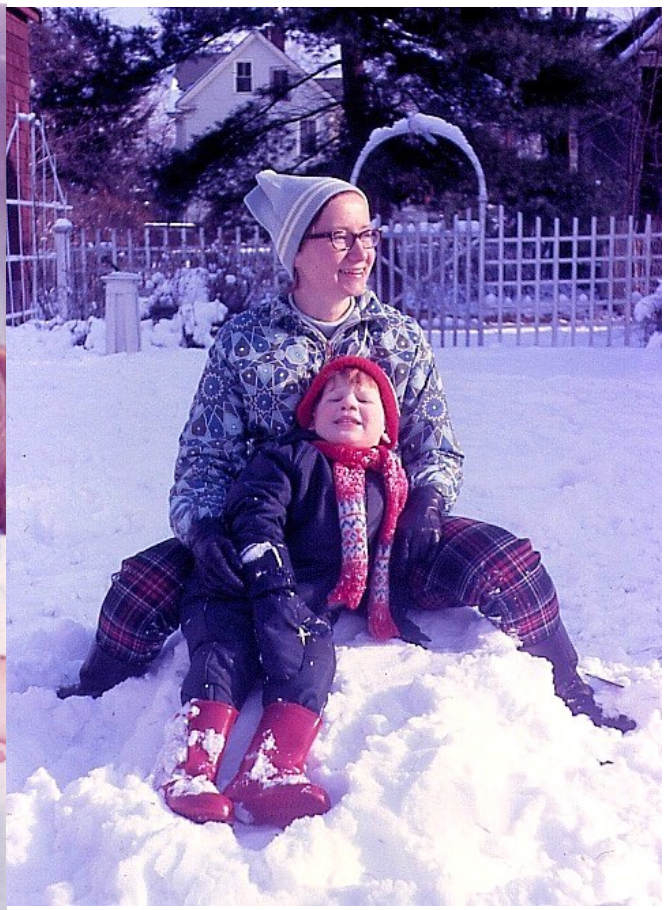
Our travels for the year may not be over. We plan to accompany John on a "workshop" cruise to the Bahamas sponsored by the Association of Environmental Engineering Professors. While the "Profs" argue about the cheapest way to waste "waste," we will apply ourselves to other pursuits.

We hope you will enjoy every minute of this holiday season and of the New Year!











"We wish you a Merry Christmas!"

Every day of 1973 has been a



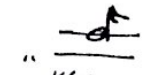








for which we are extremely grateful.



"WHEN IT'S SPRINGTIME IN THE ROCKIES".

John and I began our travels by taking a spring skiing vacation in Colorado.



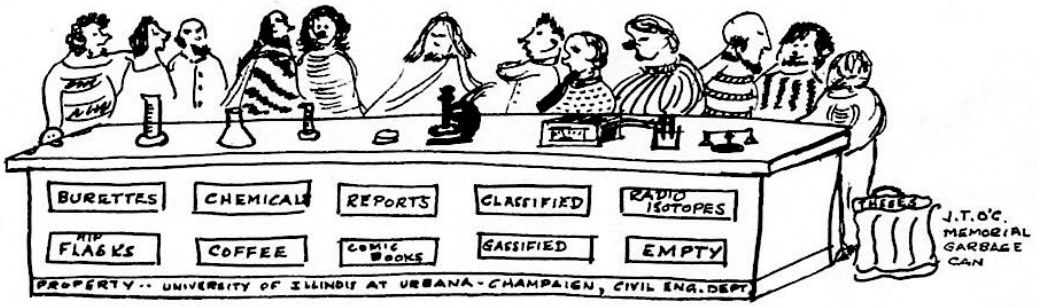
We discovered KEYSTONE Ski Area while the children hunted for the Easter bunny at their grandparent's home in Batavia.



On the drive home from Colorado, we read "BURY MY HEART AT WOUNDED KNEE" as we drove through the country where many of the events took place. We grieved and were deeply ashamed.



In June, John and I participated in the University of Illinois commencement exercise. For John, it was the first time in 12 years on the faculty; for me, it was to receive my M.S. degree in recreation & park administration

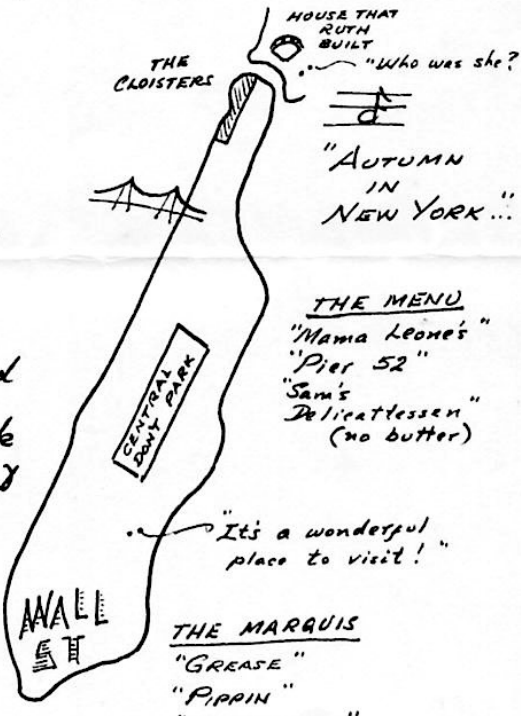


"SUMMER TIME AND THE LIVIN' IS EASY.."

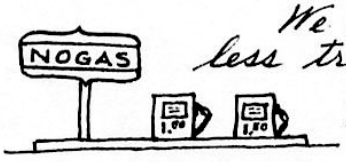
Except for his dozen graduate students, John was unemployed during the summer. So, we took the opportunity to take a camping trip around Lake Michigan. This was coupled with a conference on water quality at Ann Arbor and a visit to the Muskegon, Michigan, facility for waste water disposal.

Ultimately, we came upon better water.





Finally, John and I had an opportunity to spend a week in New York. Raindrops kept falling on our heads.



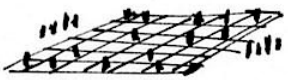
We anticipate much less travel in the future.



This summer the children enjoyed their first visit from their Massachusetts cousins. My brother, Bob, his wife, Cal, and their children, Jay and Susie, spent several days with us in Urbana. Mom and Dad came down from Batavia and Dad took the whole tribe to dinner.



Tommy is now addicted to chess and Heather has become a "libber." While Tommy challenges everyone who comes into the house with Fisher-like confidence, Heather refers to all indeterminate creatures as "she".



P-KB3 P-K4
P-KN4 Q-R5





"... and a Happy New Year!"

With warmest (but minus $\frac{3°C}{6°F}$) regards,

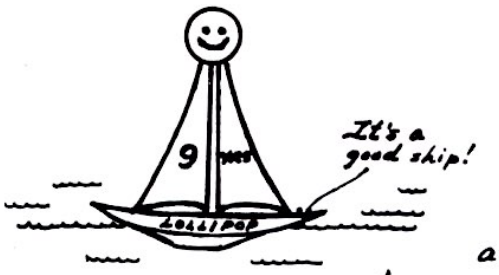
O'Connor family.









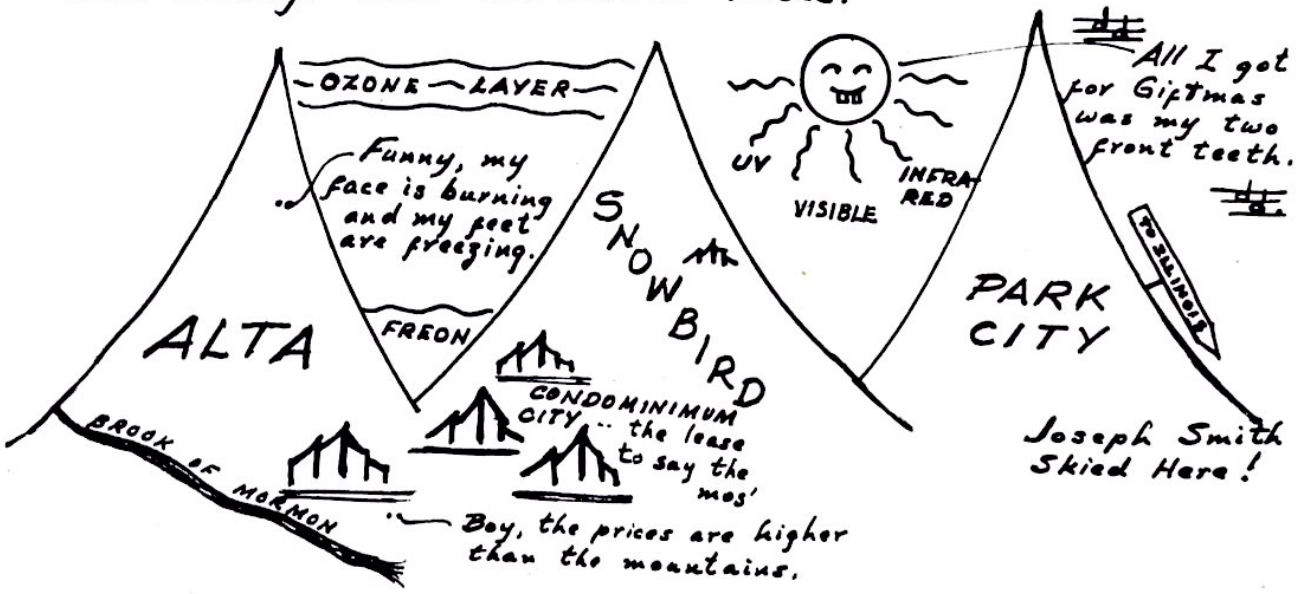


CHRISTMAS 1974

-- and our little ship sails on !

We hope that this has been another wonderful year for you -- that you have survived the rapids and the shoals -- and that you have found your voyage through life exciting and filled with adventure.

Our voyage took us to Utah for a week of skiing last April. We anticipated a perilous journey as we joined a group of hardy skiers and contemplated the precipitous declines of Alta, Snowbird & Park City. Fortunately, we survived all our descents with no more damage than sunburned noses.



In June, Tommy & Heather completed milestones in their academic careers: Second grade & Playschool, respectively.

ACADEMIC PLAN

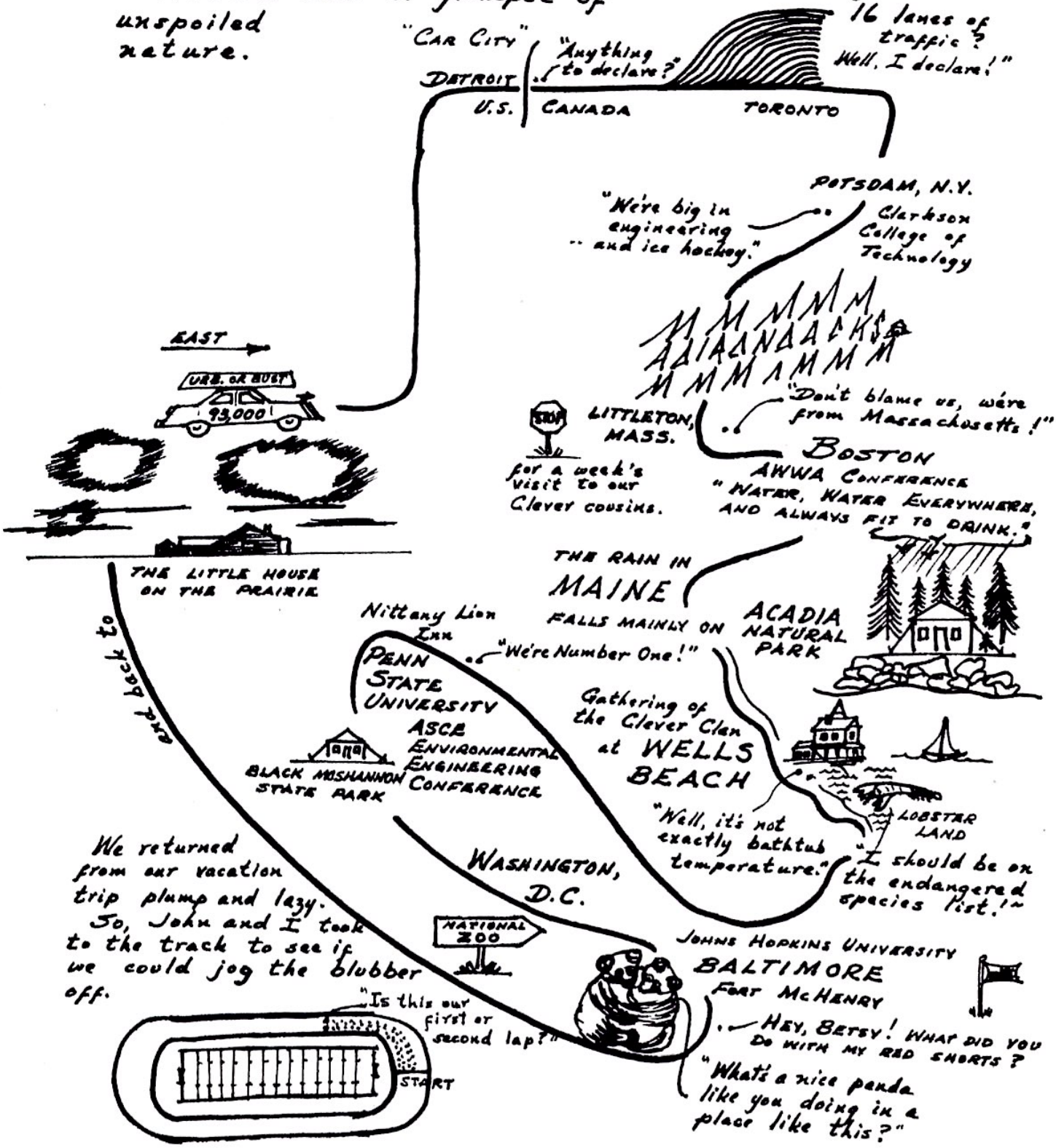
Playschool · Kindergarten - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 - 11 - 12

TOMMY	✓		✓			✓	✓						
HEATHER	✓												

FRESHPERSON - SOPHOMORE - JUNIOR - SENIOR - MASTERS - DOCTORATE

POST - DOCTORATE - RETIREMENT

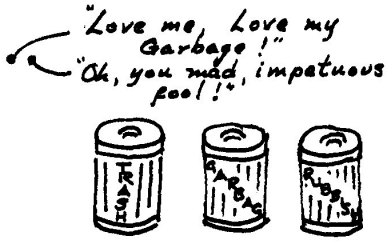
At the next high tide, we loaded our well-travelled car to the gunnels and set our course for an extended voyage to the mystic East. For 5 weeks we meandered from garden spot to garden spot in search of beauty, seclusion and a glimpse of unspoiled nature.



John & I acted in our first play in August for the national meeting of teachers in homemaker's extension. We also made our first film (rated "R" for recyclable.) The play was entitled "Lifestyles.. A Recycladrama." John played the role of 'Ernie Ecology' while I was 'Rhoda Recycle' in an upbeat version of boy meets girl at the trash can.

JOHN & JONI
in
LIL SWEET'S PRODUCTION
of
"LIFESTYLES"





In the fall, John went to Denver to bone up on pollution. I accompanied him to bone up on shopping. I also enjoyed lunching with friends, including some I had made while working for the Mile-Hi Girl Scout Council.

Around the first of the year, our little family will be navigating the mighty Mississippi to take up residence in Columbia, Missouri. Columbia is a pleasant town of about 60,000. It is also the home of the University of Missouri ("Old Mizzou") John will become Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering at UMC. As he puts it, he is "stepping down into administration."

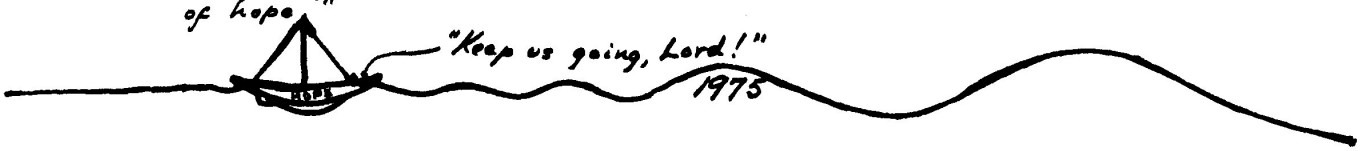
"All I want is less to do, more time to do it, and more pay for not getting it done."

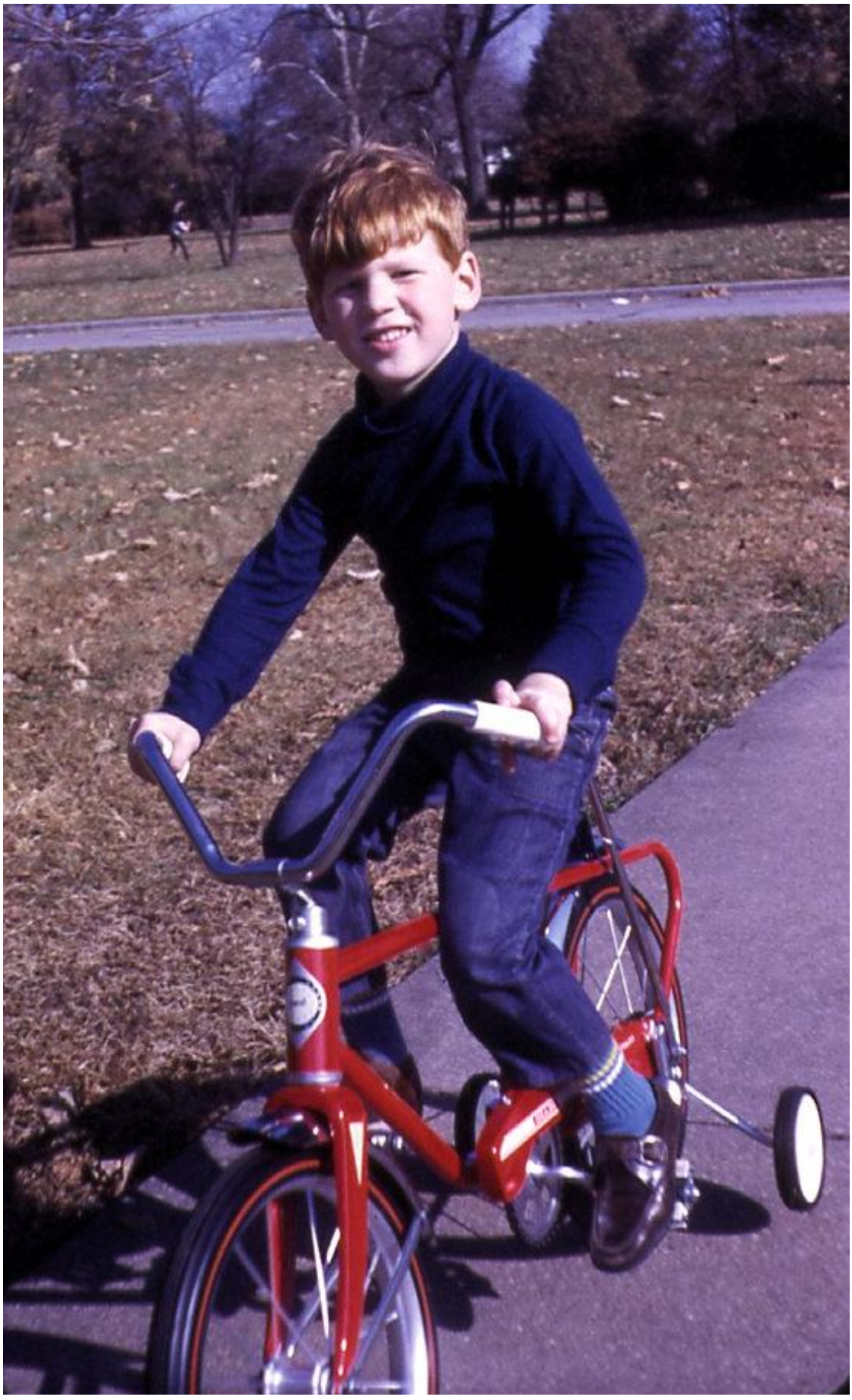
As of January 3, 1975, our new address will be:

806 Leawood Terrace
Columbia, Missouri 65201

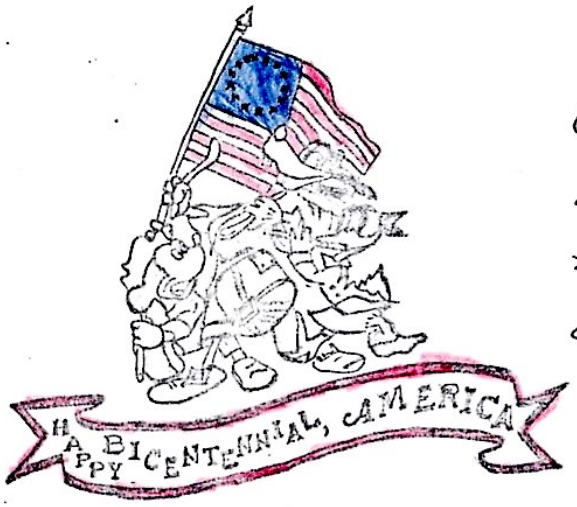
In the new year, we hope you will live well, laugh often and love much, "for these are the good old days."

"For yesterday is but a dream,
and tomorrow is only a vision,
But today, well lived, makes
yesterday a dream of happiness
and every tomorrow a vision
of hope."





MERRY CHRISTMAS - 1975



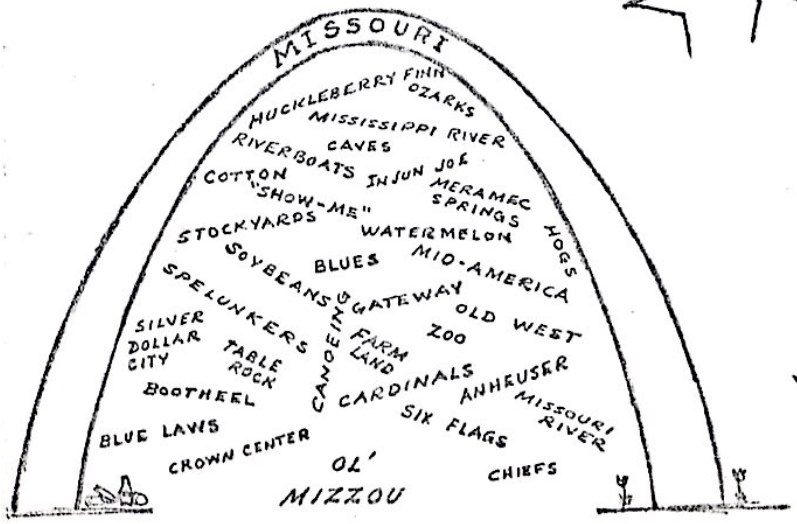
This year we greet you from Columbia, the gem of the nation. It is truly a lovely town in the middle of a beautiful state and country.

The first move of our marriage ended with all of us nestled snugly in the land of Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher.

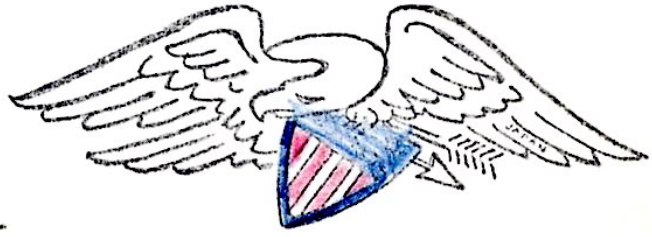
In February, the four of us attended the Missouri Water Pollution Control Association meeting at the Land of the Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks. We arrived in a heavy snowstorm and were snowbound for two wonderful days.

While John talked 'pollution', the children and I swam (indoors and outdoors) and played (pool, air hockey, ping-pong). We bowled, shopped, hiked and frolicked in the freshly fallen snow.





kikes + wops + niggers + micks + wasps + japs + krauts + pollocks + dagos + chinks + honkies + libbers + Indians + etcetera = U.S.A.



In July my brother, Bob, and his family visited from Massachusetts. Later that month we headed South.

TENNESSEE

"TENNESS, ANYONE?"

Alabama - Heart of Dixie

"We're from the Heart of America!"

GEORGE FOR PRESIDENT!!! CORNELIA FOR GOVERNOR

State line

WELCOME TO FLORIDA -- THE FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED STATE

The O'Connor's Tour of the South
or "How to see America on less than $100 per day."

♫ Way down upon the Suhwanee River... ♫

SUN RESORT NEXT LAST L. HUSEY DON'T MISS A MUST O.J. VISIT L. DEWEY ALL SEASON OFF-SEASON RATES WORLD'S LARGEST FREE! L. LOOIE PRIVATE OCEAN PECANS

CITRUS CITY

365 days of sun and 365 days of rain.

55 MPH

"Don't ask what you can do for your country, you probably won't do it anyway."

Our excuse for going to Disney World in July was an American Society of Civil Engineers meeting in Gainesville. After enjoying the beautiful University of Florida campus, we luxuriated in our trusty tent for a week at Fort Wilderness while visiting the Magic Kingdom, Treasure Island and Busch Gardens. All four of us 'kids' had a super time in the glittering pleasureland.

GAINESVILLE

"How about a Gainesburger for lunch?"

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA Environmental Engineering Conference -- "Conservation is the Solution to Pollution!"

Tom, Heather and I began piano lessons this year. After a few months Tom decided that he had finally mastered the instrument. Heather and I are still working at it. ♫

THE LOST CHORD

The Water Pollution Control Federation met in Miami Beach in October. John and I returned to Florida for the meeting while Mom and Dad Clever packed school lunches, settled disagreements, gave goodnight kisses, answered riddles, played children's games and ministered to hurt fingers and feelings in Columbia. It is hard to say who had the most fun.

ENERGY: ENDANGERED SPECIES

If its such a small world, why does it take so long to get to

DISNEY WORLD

(LAS VEGAS FOR SMALL FRY)

I'm back in Girl Scouting in Columbia. This time I am Brownie leader for fourteen dear first, second and third grade girls. Heather is one of them.

TROOP 100



John's position at the University of Missouri is proving to be as stimulating and interesting as he had anticipated. Professional activities have taken him to New Orleans, Minneapolis, Madison, Lafayette, Atlanta and Prairie Homes, Missouri (Population: 150; 28 miles from Columbia.) As an administrator, he feels that he is a freshman, starting all over again. It is hard to tell his flurry of paper from that other white stuff flying around.

• ∫ Time sure flies when you're behind in your work.



We do wish that the joy of this holiday season will be with you throughout the year.

the O'Connor's



"The world and the books are so accustomed to use, and over-use, the word "new" in connection with our country, that we early get and permanently retain the impression that there is nothing old about it,"

Life on the Mississippi
Mark Twain



CHRISTMAS 1975:
AMERICA'S BUY-CENTENNIAL



Merry Christmas



1976

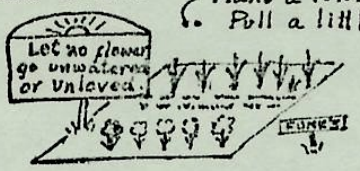
We hope you have enjoyed a year of joyous life, good health and gentle love. We can gratefully report that our little family has remained healthy and busy throughout the year.

We occupied ourselves with a wonderful array of perfectly ordinary, but exciting, adventures.

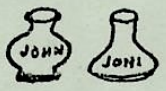
Wonderful Array of Perfectly Ordinary {but exciting} Adventures

FAMILY GARDEN

Plant a little seed,
Pull a little weed!

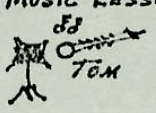


POTTERY CLASS



Pot is something you make, not grow!

MUSIC LESSONS



BOWLING

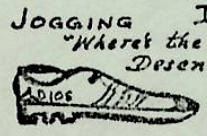


CAMPING & CANOEING

Who can't tell a paddle from a tent pole?

JOGGING

"Where's the Desenex?"



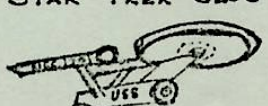
ICE SKATING

BALLET



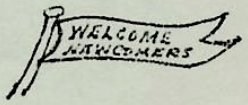
Ballerina
Heatherina

STAR TREK CLUB



T&H: TREKKIES

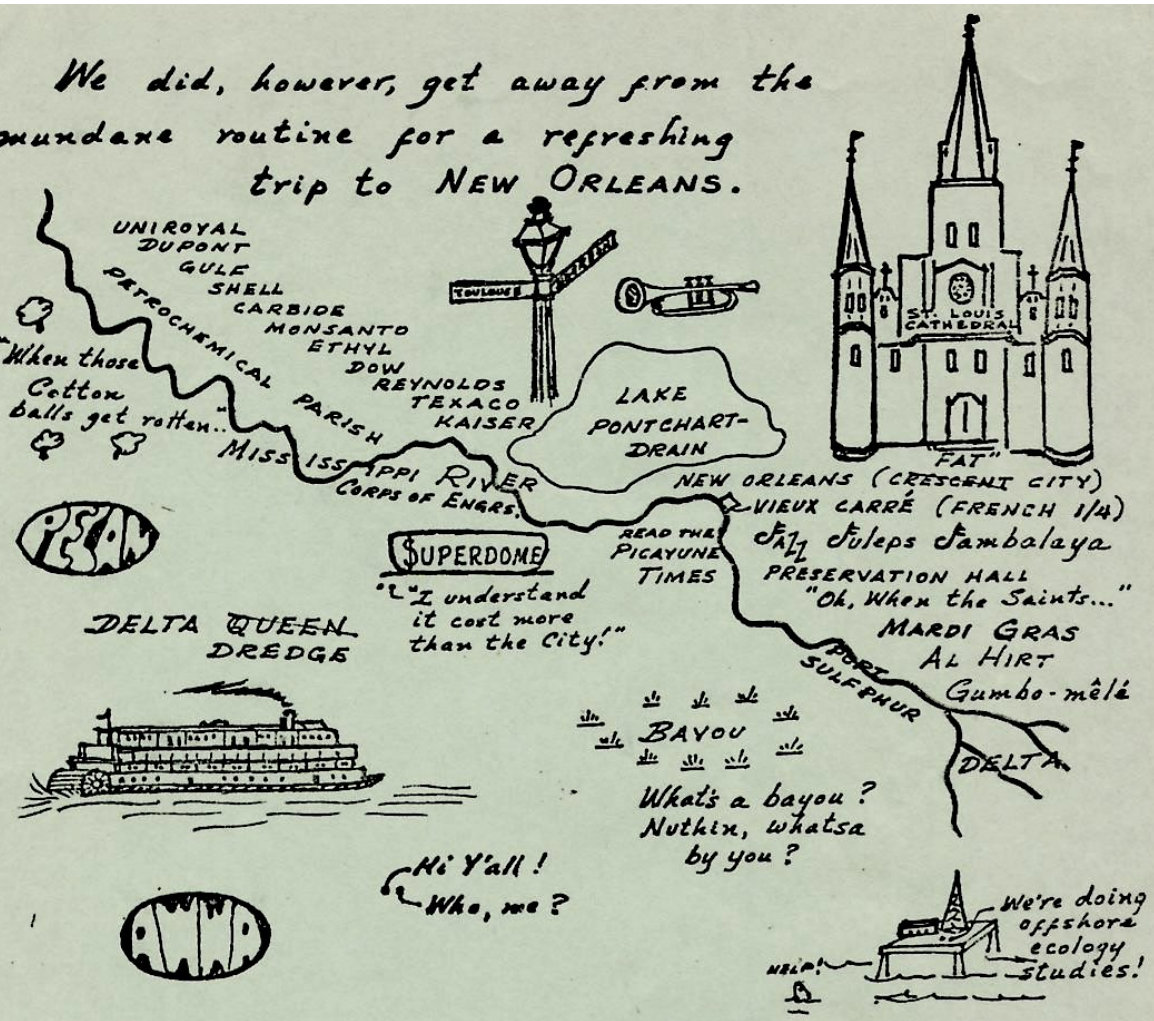
NEWCOMERS



STEPHENS COLLEGE + UNIVERSITY THEATRE
LIVELY ARTS — BROADWAY SERIES
SYMPHONY — CONCERT SERIES
PLAYHOUSE — CHILDREN'S THEATRE — ENVIRONMENTAL
WAREHOUSE — ENGR. SEMINARS

GIRL SCOUT BROWNIES:
JONI - LEADER
HEATHER - LEADER

We did, however, get away from the mundane routine for a refreshing trip to NEW ORLEANS.



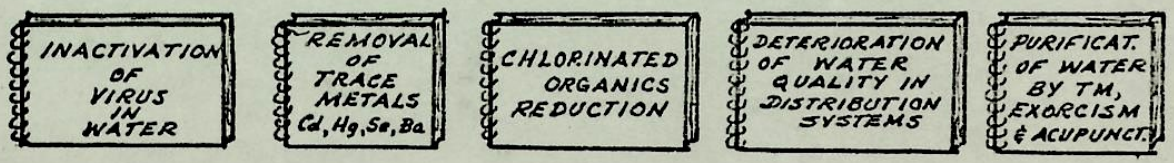
John & I also sojourned to Batavia to attend my High School class reunion. It was fun to see how 20 years had transformed our gawky group of teenagers into handsome, mature adults.

YEARS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

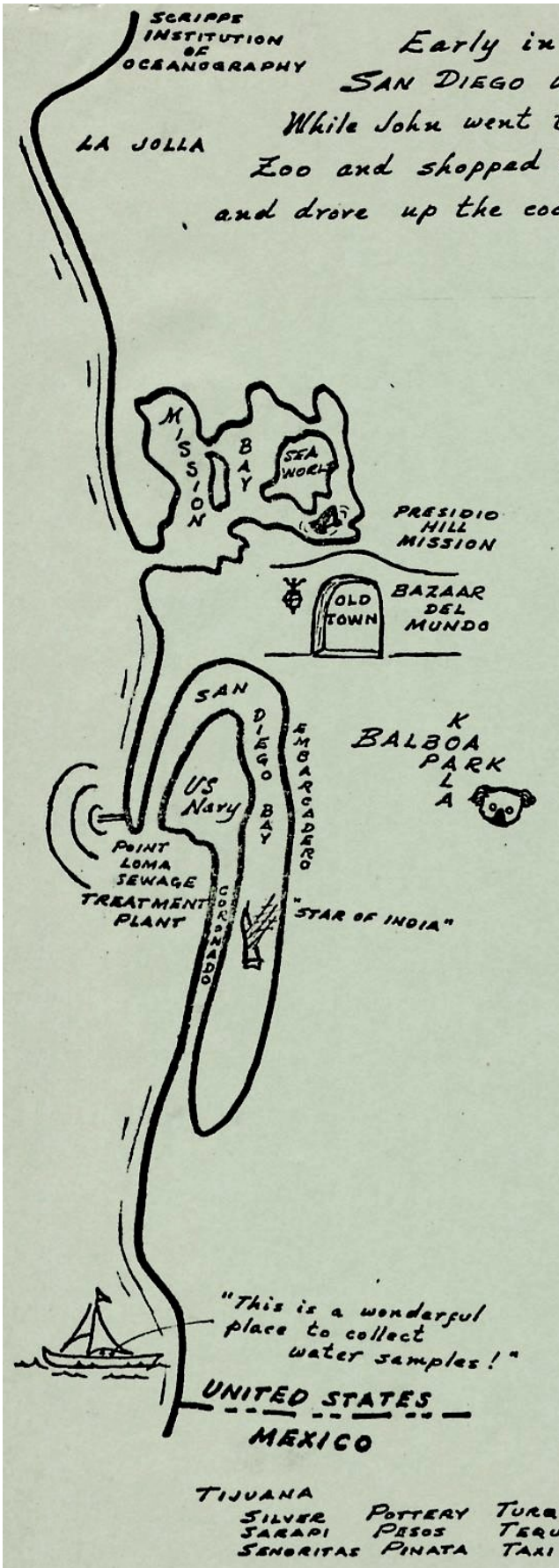
GO TO COLLEGE STUDY LAMAZE JOIN PTA TENNIS JOGGING APPLY FOR MEDICARE
GET A JOB BUY A CAR BUY A HOUSE BUY INSURANCE BUY CEMETERY PLOT
GET MARRIED HAVE A BABY GET DIVORCE DIET REMARRY KEEP REGULAR
TAKE VACATION BUY NOW-PAY LATER SWING STOCKS RETIRE TO SOUTH AMERICA

Back in Columbia, John was starting a number of new research projects on water supply.



Early in December John & I went to SAN DIEGO while Mom stayed with Tom & Heather. While John went to the Water Works meeting, I visited the Zoo and shopped in Tijuana. Together, we rented a car and drove up the coast along the ocean.

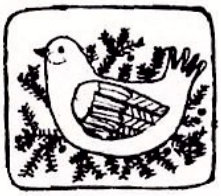
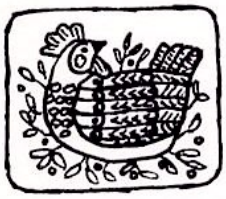
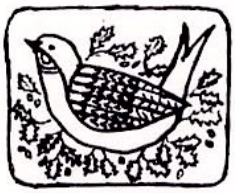
As we begin our twelfth year of Christmas as a family, we wish you a year filled with life's most important gifts.

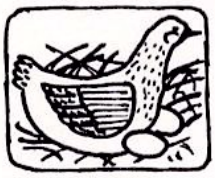
















We wish you a most
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON
1977

We hope it has been a joyous year for you.



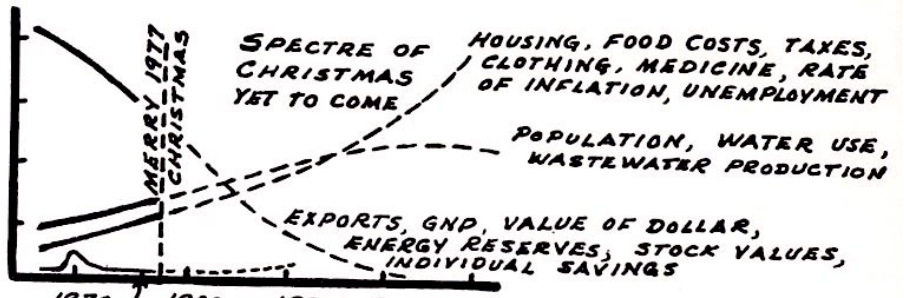
For our Twelfth Year of CHRISTMAS
the Good Lord gave to us ....
continued Life and Happiness.

Early this spring, the University of Missouri Medical Center found that Joni had a brain tumor. Surgery for its removal was a dramatic success. Within six weeks, Joni & I were jogging together again.

"I feel a little lightheaded these days!"

ife

Before long, John returned to the task of keeping track of America's future.



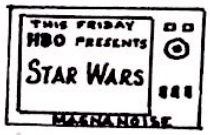
Sensitivity of American 'leadership' to need for substantive energy conservation programs.

Heather and Tom were involved in more pastoral pursuits.

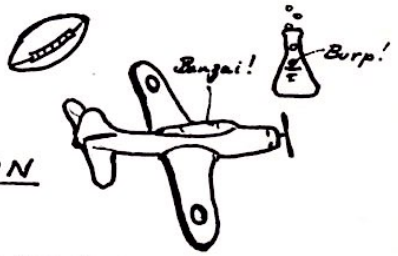
GOURMET DINING

Italian	–	Pizza Palace
Mexican	–	Taco Bell
Country	–	Col. Sanders
Seafood	–	Long John's
French	–	House of Fries
Mod. Amer.	–	Burger King
Desserts	–	Dairy Queen

ENTERTAINMENT



HOBBIES



TRANSPORTATION



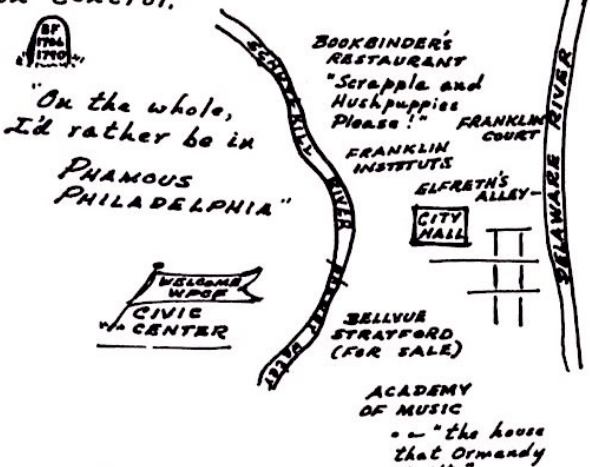


XXXX 10-speed "racing bike"

During the summer we travelled to North Dakota for an Engineering Educator's Conference; to Chicago (a suburb of Batavia) to see King Tut, Sears Tower, Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium, Grandpa, Grandma and the Clever Clan.

Later we went to Philadelphia to learn more about water pollution control.





How many observe Christ's Birth-day;
How few his Precepts!
O, 'tis easier to keep Holidays than Commandments.
POOR RICHARD'S ALMANACK

One of the highlights of our year came in late October when we travelled through the rolling hills of Southwest Missouri.

The warm weather and vivid autumn colors were at their peak, as we wended our way to a tasteful and seemingly authentic view of American mountain life at the turn of the century.

Silver Dollar City

"You have a great past ahead of you!"

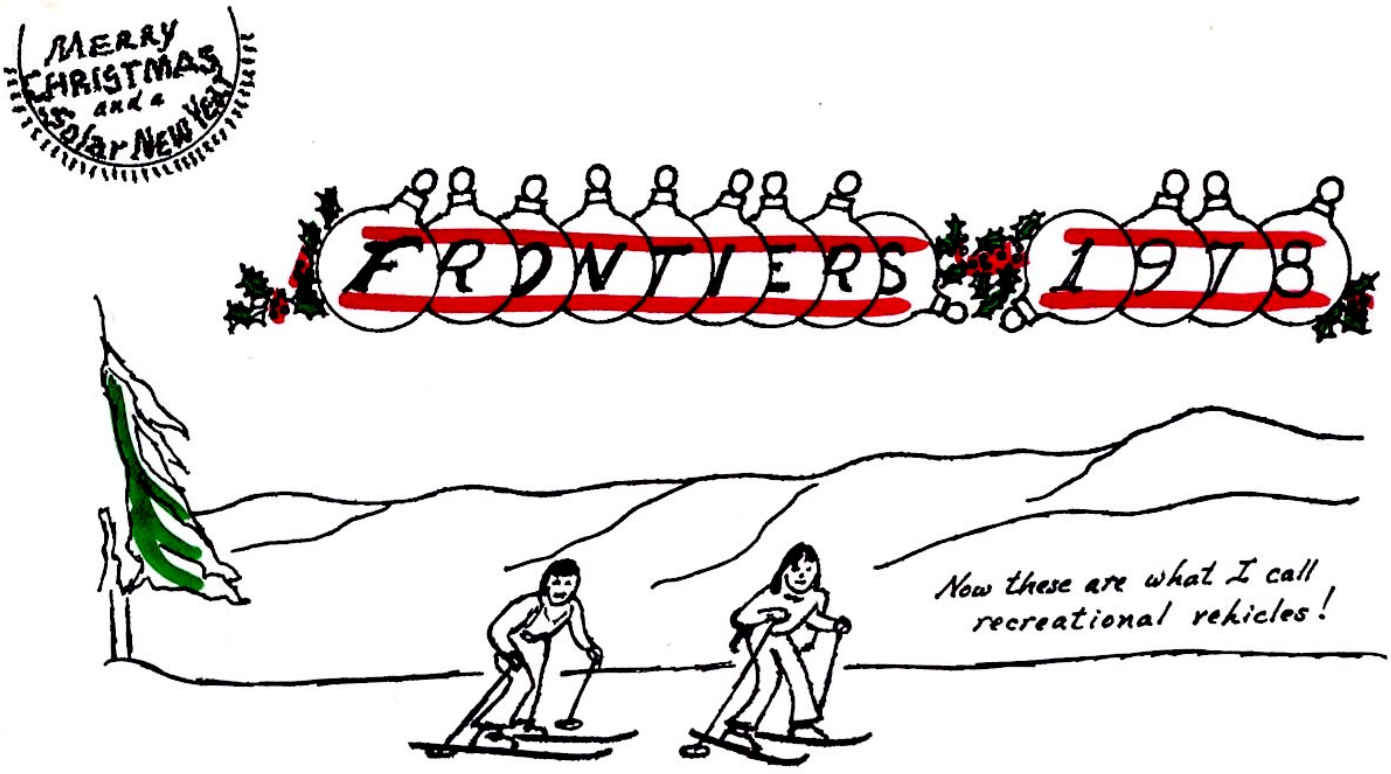




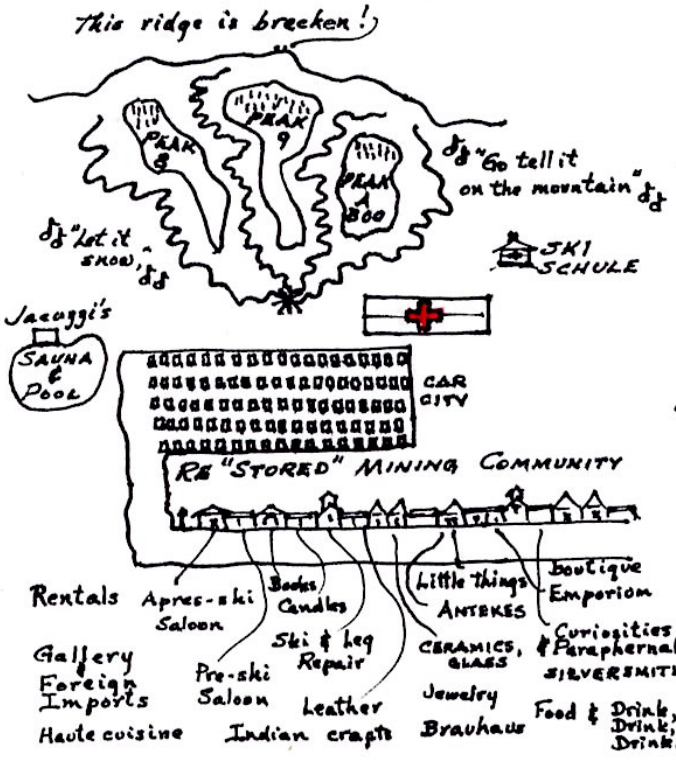
We wish you a joyous holiday season and may your New Year be filled with Happiness and Contentment.




I JOINED THE
BROOKS
4092
I JOINED THE
BROOKS
4268
I JOINED THE
BROOKS
1451
9926



May Each New Year Bring You New Frontiers to experience, to explore, to enjoy!

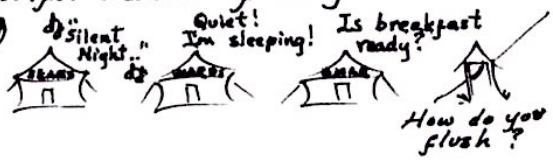


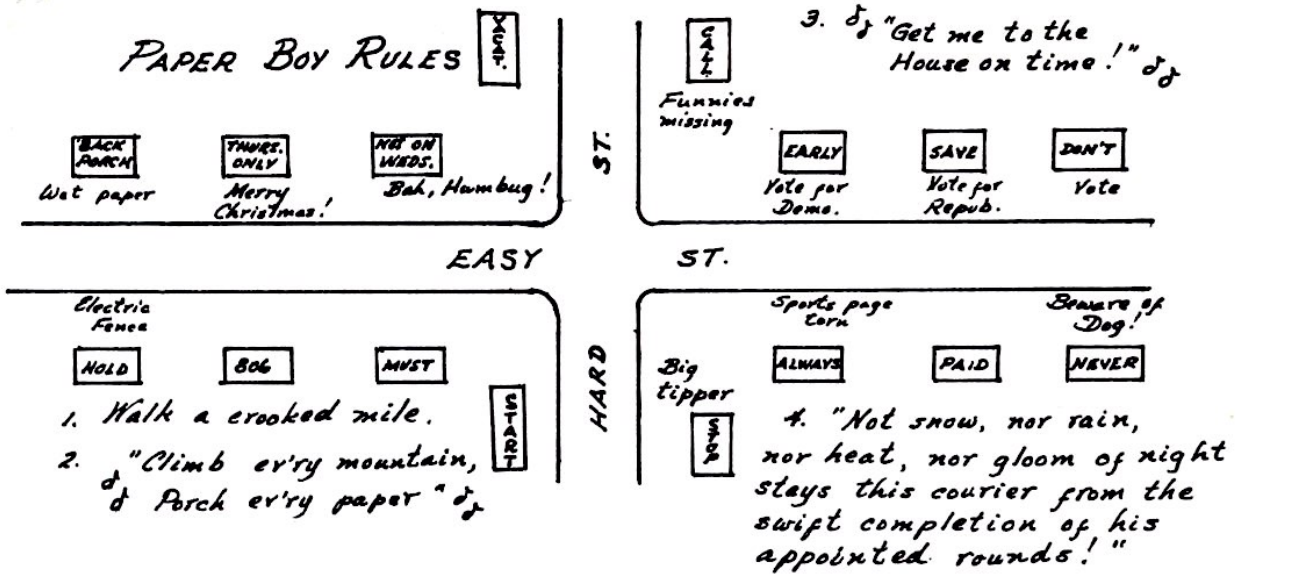
Brecken ridge, Colorado, was the frontier for Tom & Heather's introduction to downhill skiing.

Despite Tom's broken ski and a full set of sunburned noses, it appears that future ski trips will be family affairs.

Heather's newest frontier is Junior Scouts where overnights, badgework and cookie selling eclipse the excitement experienced in Brownies.

We tent camped with 29 girls in November during some of the most beautiful weather of the year.





This fall, Tom ventured into the frontier of the business world with a paper route serving 80 homes. He is fond of being solvent and is saving for a Trans-Am. By the time he has sold enough papers at 9.23¢ apiece, the private automobile will be obsolete and a tank of gas will cost an equivalent of a week's pay.

John's frontiers were in water treatment research. Reporting on its progress took him to: Bozeman, Montana
Springfield, Missouri
Atlantic City, New Jersey
Miami Beach, Florida
Kansas City, Missouri
Iowa City, Iowa and
Cincinnati, Ohio.

"Water, water everywhere... make every drop fit to drink!"

My frontier was my fortieth birthday, a birthday which should be no different from any other, but somehow is. A small gathering of friends entertained me with a champagne breakfast of strawberry blintzes with sour cream and whipped cream. What a way to start life after forty!

Champagne and Blintzes? Is that Kosher?

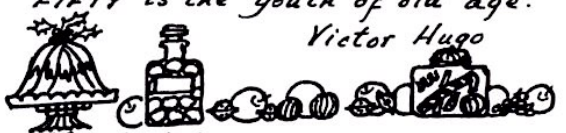


This morning I was seventeen.
I have barely begun the beguine and its
Good night ladies
Already.
While I've been wondering who to be
When I grow up someday,
My acne vanished away and its
Sagging kneecaps
Already.
While I was thinking I was just a girl,
My future turned into my past.
The time for wild kisses goes fast and its
Time for Sanka
Already.

"How did I get to be 40 and other atrocities."
Judith Viorst



FORTY is the old age of youth,
FIFTY is the youth of old age.
Victor Hugo

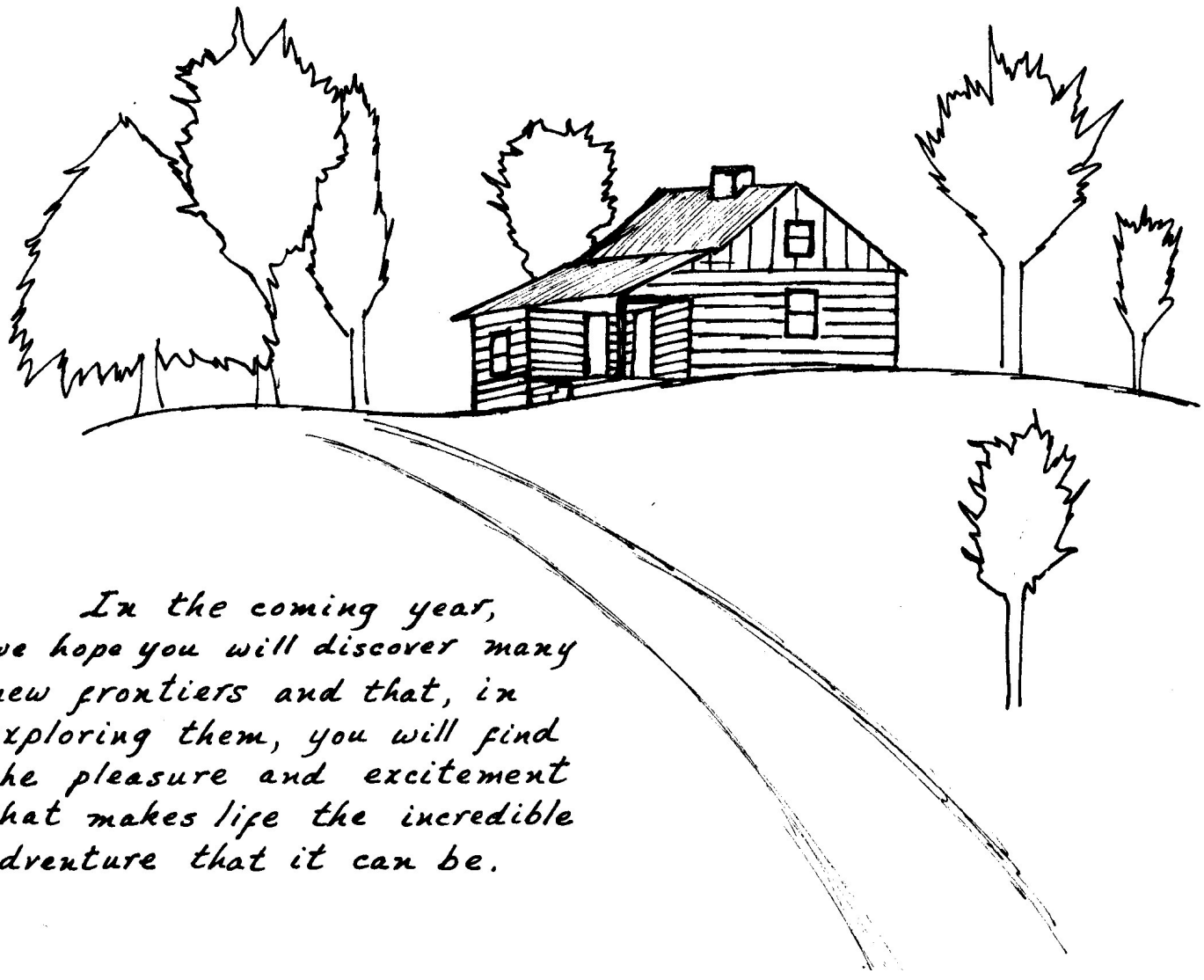


The best ten years of a woman's life are between 28 and 30.



Our most adventure-filled frontier includes a two-story, hand-hewn oak log cabin. It resides on 120 acres of beautiful rolling, wooded Missouri countryside not far from Columbia.

Our family summer vacation consisted of a solid week of hammering on tin roofing and oak logs; knocking out the decades-old chinking; mixing new mortar; tearing off old siding and clearing away bushes and trees barring entrance to the cabin. Despite all this effort, our frontier is far from tamed.



In the coming year, we hope you will discover many new frontiers and that, in exploring them, you will find the pleasure and excitement that makes life the incredible adventure that it can be.









UNDER YOUR 1979

CHRISTMAS TREE

WE HOPE YOU WILL FIND
MANY GIFTS
INCLUDING THOSE OF ....
PEACE, LOVE,
HAPPINESS
AND FRIENDSHIP.

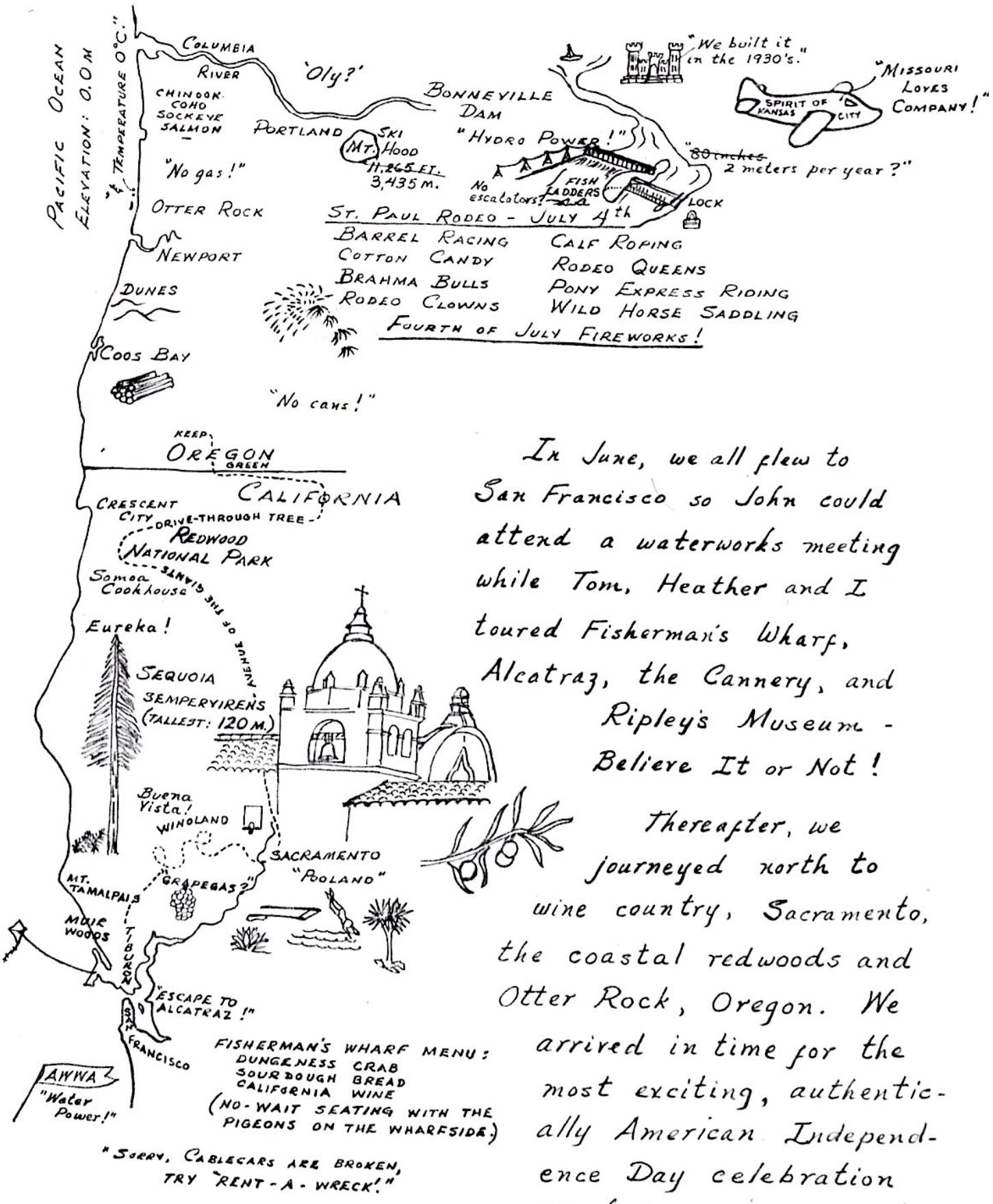
We gratefully acknowledge the gift of still another happy and peaceful year -- filled with jogging, gardening, PTA, marching band, rollerskating, baseball, bicycle repair and many other important pursuits.

We joined the "Human Race" this year, running in Columbia's new 10,000 meter event. All we got for our efforts were sweaty socks, a T-shirt and our names on the bottom half of a long list in the newspapers.

Tom, however, finished in the top half.







In June, we all flew to San Francisco so John could attend a waterworks meeting while Tom, Heather and I toured Fisherman's Wharf, Alcatraz, the Cannery, and Ripley's Museum - Believe It or Not!

Thereafter, we journeyed north to wine country, Sacramento, the coastal redwoods and Otter Rock, Oregon. We arrived in time for the most exciting, authentically American Independence Day celebration we had ever experienced.

We stayed close to home for most of the year -- enjoying a summer visit from the 'Massachusett's Clevers' and the variety of excellent live entertainment which abounds in Columbia.

Do we have to go out tonight?
We're late! — We'll miss 'Monday Night Football!'
Where's the tickets?

LIVE
VARIETY OF EXCELLENT ENTERTAINMENT WHICH ABOUNDS IN COLUMBIA!

Stephen's College
Warehouse
Playhouse
University Theatre
Broadway Series
Maplewood Barn Theatre
U.S. GRANT SCHOOL 'FUNESTA'

BORGE VICTOR

Chancellor's Concerts
Aaron Copland
Carlos Montoya
Geoffrey Ballet
Nutcracker
Tom's Concert Band

Girls & Dolls

Romeo and Juliet
I do, I do!
Not now, Darling!
Pippin - Smith
Annie, get your gun!
A Christmas Carol

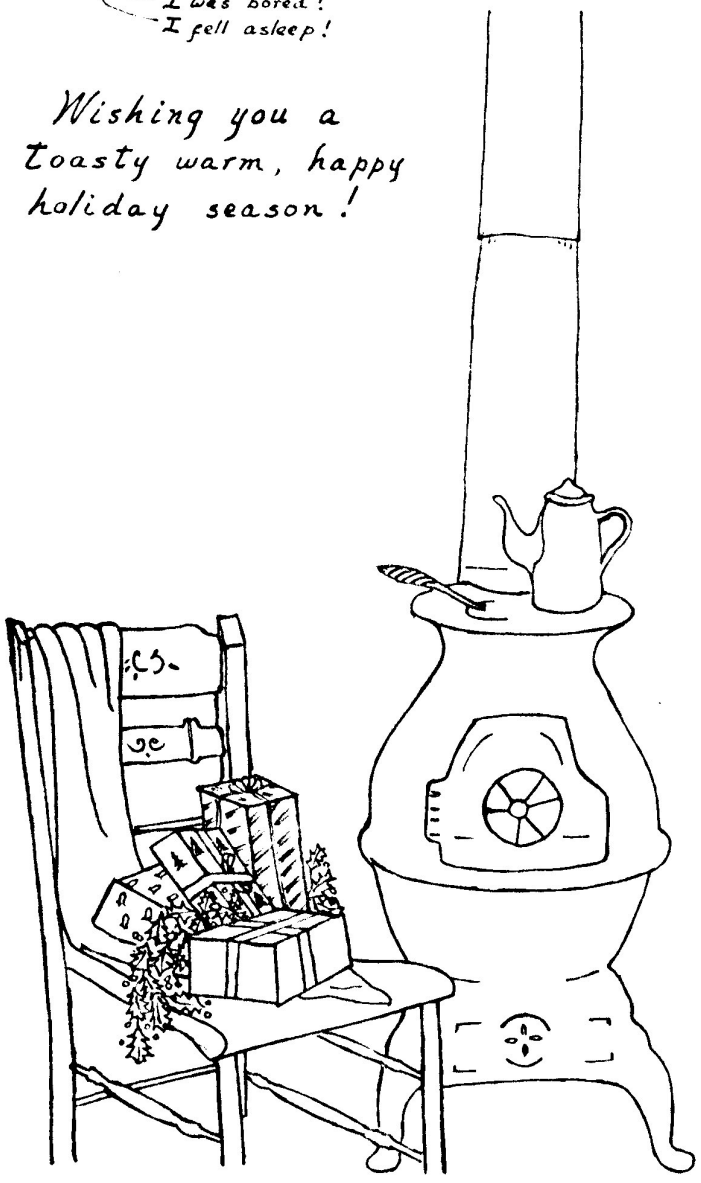
Miss Margarita's Way

PICNICKING
HIKING
HORSEBACK RIDING
COUNTRY HAYRIDE
(No tickets required!)
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

"COLUMBIA is a year-round festival!"

It was great!
Wasn't she good?
I was bored!
I fell asleep!

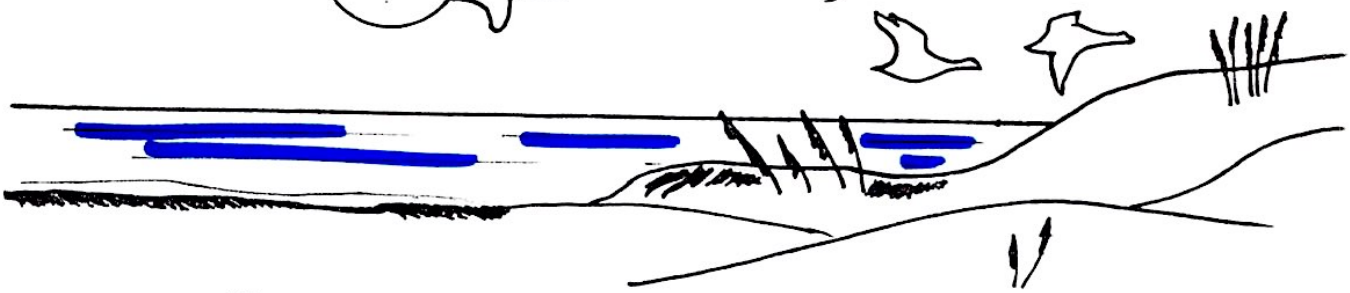
Wishing you a toasty warm, happy holiday season!



Christmas is a lovely way
of rounding out each year,
For every hearth and home's aglow
with love and warmth and cheer,
And Christmas is a lovely way
of remembering again
The promise of its spirit--
"Peace on Earth,
Good Will toward Men."



Our Warmest Wishes for the 198 Holiday Season



We hope you have enjoyed the gifts of life and love to the fullest during the past year. Our year was occupied with many happy little family activities.

-- happy little family activities --

Sports

10 Kilometer Races:
Human Race
Diet Pepsi
Occidental
"Joni & Heather each took a prize, but Tom had the fastest time."

Racquetball
"-- handball with a racquet?"

"One-Mississippi..."

Sandlot Football and Baseball

Gymnastics
"Chinese Splits?"

Bowling
"Joni's bowling 35 pins over her weight!"
"In pounds or kilograms?"

Entertainment

"Go, Mizzou!"
MU Football
MU Basketball
-- tailtwisters and tailgaters.

KC Royals "At least we beat the Yankees!"

KC Chiefs
St Louis Cardinals

Globetrotters
"Meadowlark's no Lemon!"

International and Madrigal Dinners
"Why can't we go to Hardee's?"

Camping and Fishing at Lake Pomme de Terre
"110° (43°C) in the shade!"

Cultural

West Jr. 'Pep' Band - Tom
'Honors' Band - Heather

Preservation Hall Jazz Band - "They're all at least 80 in the shade."

Bye-Bye, Birdia!

Nutcracker Ballet

Chapter Two

Twelfth Night

Belle of Amherst

School for Scandal

Toys in the Attic

Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

Messiah "And his name shall be called Wonderful.."

Alice in Wonderland
"Heather sang the role of Alice..."
"--just before she got her braces."

Civic

Grant School PTA
West Jr. H.S.

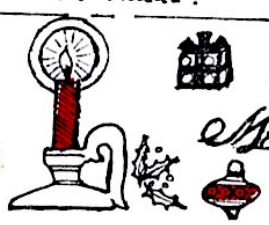
League of Women Voters
Recycling
Solid Waste
Bicycling
"-- for a better America!"

Columbia Art League

Missouri River Society
Float Trip
"It's the Year of the River!

Friends of the Library
"Let's be Friends."

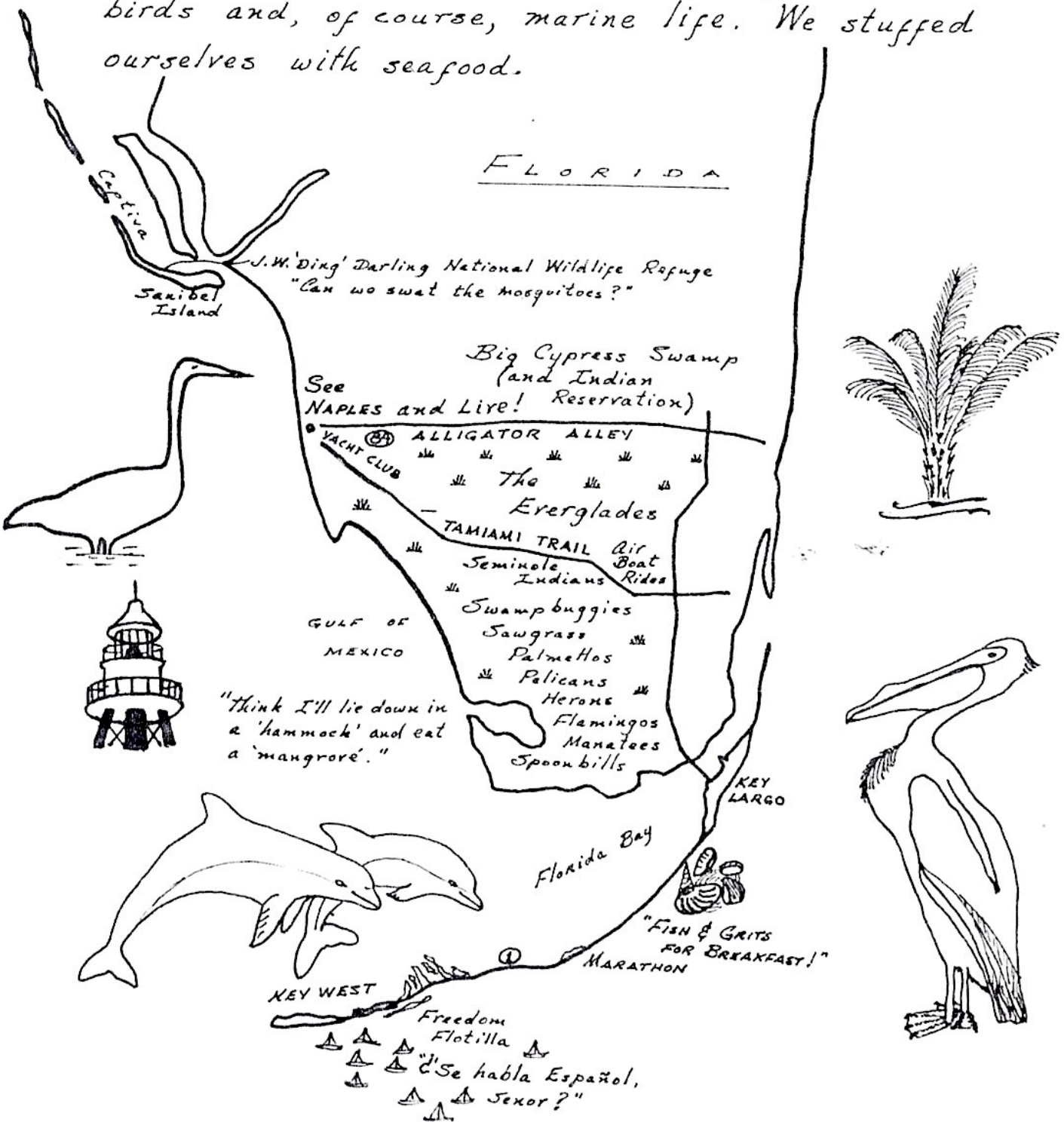
Happy New Year



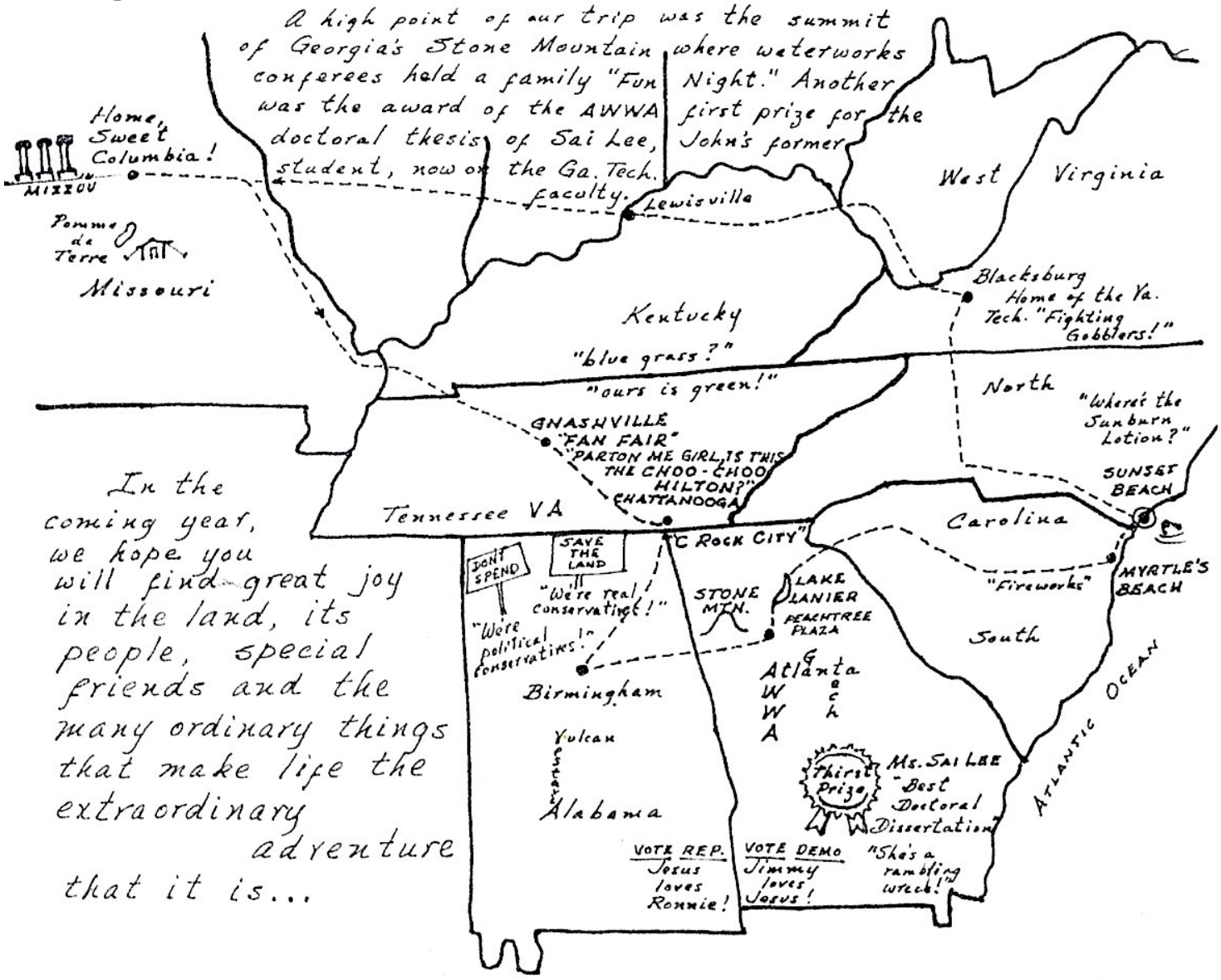
Merry Christmas!



With snow on the ground in Missouri this past winter, we flew to Florida for our first visit to Naples and the West Coast. We visited Sanibel Island, the Everglades and the Florida Keys. It was a visit to an exciting world of exotic plants, birds and, of course, marine life. We stuffed ourselves with seafood.



In the summer, we again headed south, stopping in Chattanooga, Birmingham and Atlanta on our way to the beaches of North and South Carolina.



In the coming year, we hope you will find great joy in the land, its people, special friends and the many ordinary things that make life the extraordinary adventure that it is...

"It's the simple joys,
the simple pleasures
the heart remembers
and dearly treasures."
Hadin Marshall





MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

HAPPY NEW YEAR



"Merry Old Santa Claus"
by Thomas Nast
Harper's Weekly
January 1, 1881

We hope that you have shared another year of peace, happiness and love with your family and friends.



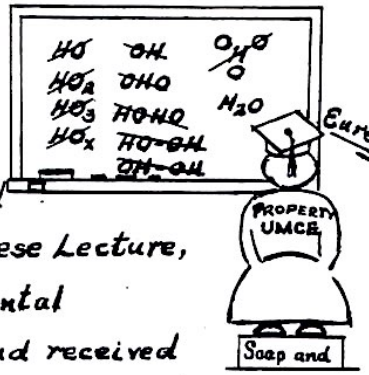
Our year has been happy and tranquil -- filled with those ordinary daily activities that make life the extraordinary adventure that it can be.

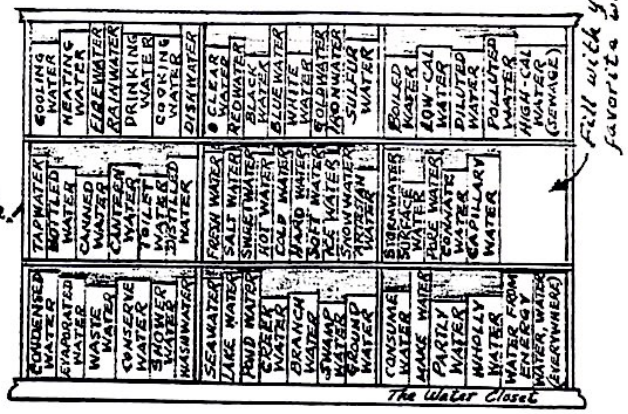




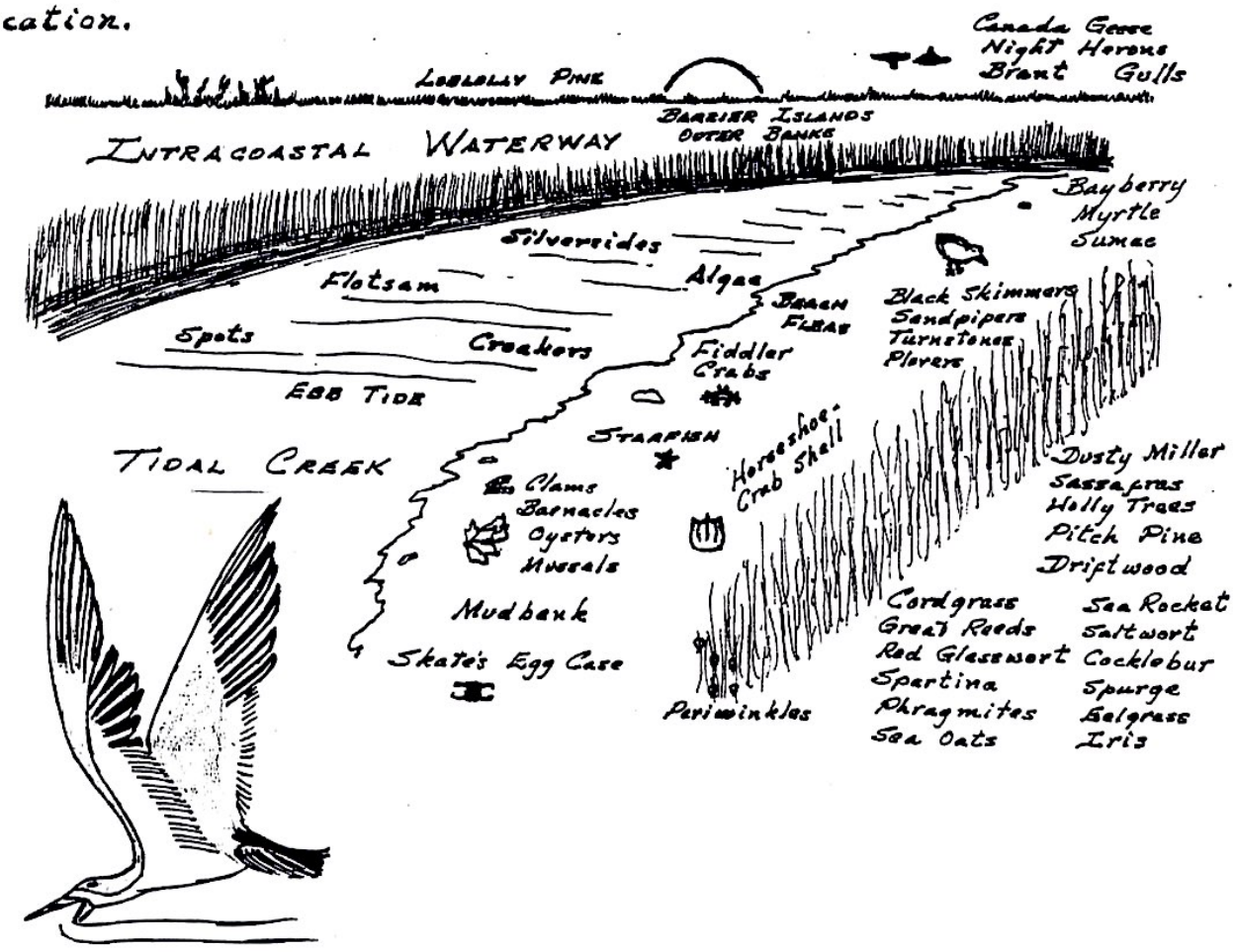
John is still studying water.

In July we travelled to Atlanta, Ga. where he presented the Simon W. Freese Lecture, "Global Environmental Deterioration" and received the ASCE Freese Award.





Later, at Sunset Beach, North Carolina, we enjoyed a quiet week of pier and surf fishing, kite flying, jogging, swimming, body surfing and exploring the tidal flats for marine life. Among the marine life, we found my mother and her friends on their annual N.C. vacation.





For 1½ weeks during the summer, we were host family to Yuuko Koike, a 12 year old girl from Japan. She and 14 other teen-agers were here with the "Experiment in International Living." It was a fascinating experience.

In August, my Batavia High School class held its 25th reunion. We combined a visit to my parents with that silver-lined event. It was good to see so many friends from so long ago -- some I have known since kindergarten.

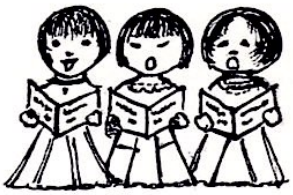
In this, our 16th Christmas letter, we wish you a a happy holiday season and a new year filled with love.

Christmas is a promise
we make to ourselves
when we write our annual
Christmas letters,
the promise that we will try
to keep in touch more often
with those we love but seldom see.

Pearl S. Buck



Sing! Choirs of Angels Sing in Exultation Sing, All Ye Citizens of Heaven Above



.. with angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem

.. and heaven and nature sing...

... that glorious song of old...,

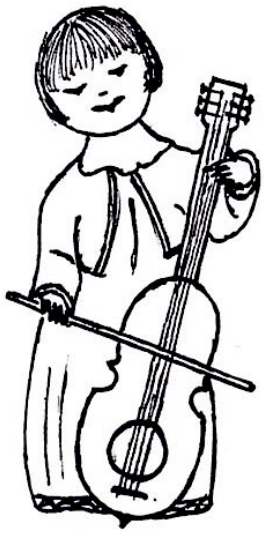
Hark! The herald angels sing...

... the virgin sings her lullaby...

.. ring, ring, ring, ring..

I heard the bells on Christmas Day...

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains..



O, hear the angelic voices..

... then peal the bells, more loud and deep..

.. songs of good cheer..

...troll the ancient Yuletide carol...

sweet singing in the choir

Here we come a-wassailing...

.. sing a sleighing song tonight...

Ye, who sang a creation's story..

... whom shepherds guard and angels sing...

...twelve drummers drumming, 'leven pipers piping...

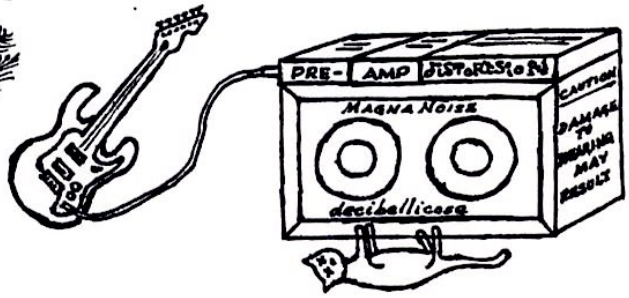


Hark! We send You a Song to Celebrate the Joy of Christmas!

We hope the echoes of its refrain will bring you comfort throughout the year.

This year, the little world of our family has been alive with the sound of music.

Tom flirted with electrocution as he assembled the impedimenta of the modern guitarist. In addition to organizing a rock group, Tom played tenor saxophone in his high school marching and pep bands. They are a loud and happy crew.



... 100 Watts? One's more than enough!



..'round you Virgin, Mother and Child..



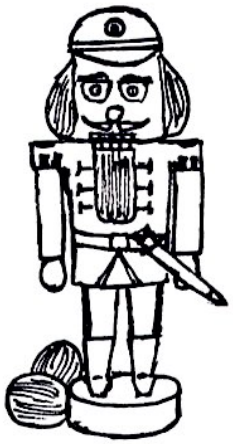
Heather was one of the gaggle of clarinetists in her Junior High School marching and pep bands. Heather also enjoyed singing in the school choir. Her appearance changed noticeably when her teeth braces were removed and she switched from glasses to contact lenses. With gymnastics and ballet as additional diversions, Heather's days are full and varied.



John had a happy year doing what he enjoys most, working with students on projects. He is now working to establish a University Hazardous Waste Research Center. Aside from trips to Minneapolis, Orlando, Cincinnati and Nashville, some of this year's conferences were very convenient for John.



In Columbia, we took advantage of a wealth of cultural events, including a Chet Atkins concert, productions of Mame, Music Man, South Pacific, Christmas Carol and, a special favorite, the Nutcracker. We jogged and did some biking in the Amish country, north of Columbia, to fill in the lulls.



We returned to Sunset Beach, N.C. for a vacation at the ocean. The week was especially pleasant because we shared a rental cottage with our good friends, the Novaks, who now live in Virginia.

Unexpectedly, I was invited to become a volunteer announcer for the University of Missouri - Columbia National Public Radio station (KBIA). On Mondays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., I try to correctly pronounce the names of classical compositions, composers and artists while juggling tapes, records and interspersing public service announcements. If all goes right, it is fun.



"Our first selection on 'Accent on Music' for this Christmas morning...."

"Stardate...."

"Stay tuned for..."

"In the Newsroom.."

"Tonight, the 7th Annual Chancellor's Festival of Music.."

"You can obtain an FM 91 Program Guide.."

Once again, we wish you the best that the Season and New Year can offer. Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas...

the O'Connor's

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"As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, when they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky.."



Our 1983 Season's Greetings

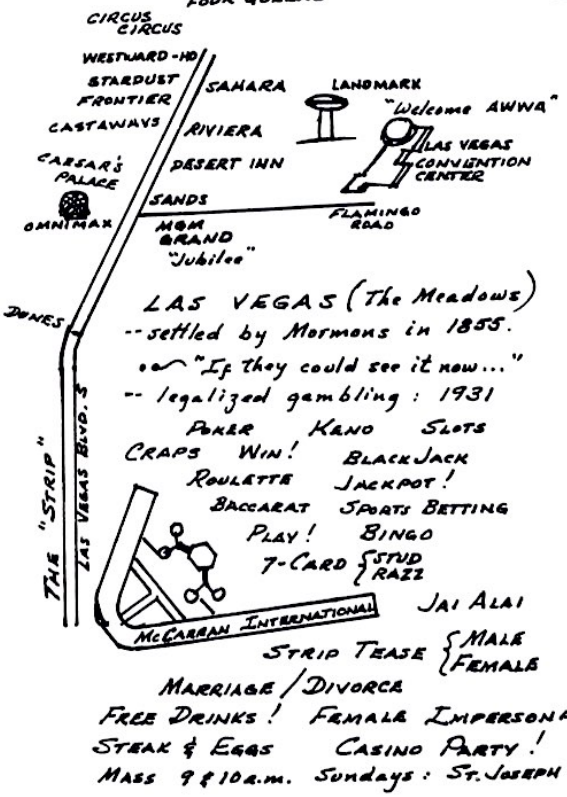
arrive with the hope that you have enjoyed a year of peace and tranquility -- and that you will receive yet another gift of happiness for the coming year.

Early in the past year, we took flight westward. A trip to Portland, Oregon to visit old friends gave me the chance to see Mt. Hood and Timberline Lodge, walk the beach of the Pacific Ocean and jog the first "Columbia Crossing", a run between the states of Oregon & Washington over the new Glenn L. Jackson bridge which spans the Columbia River.



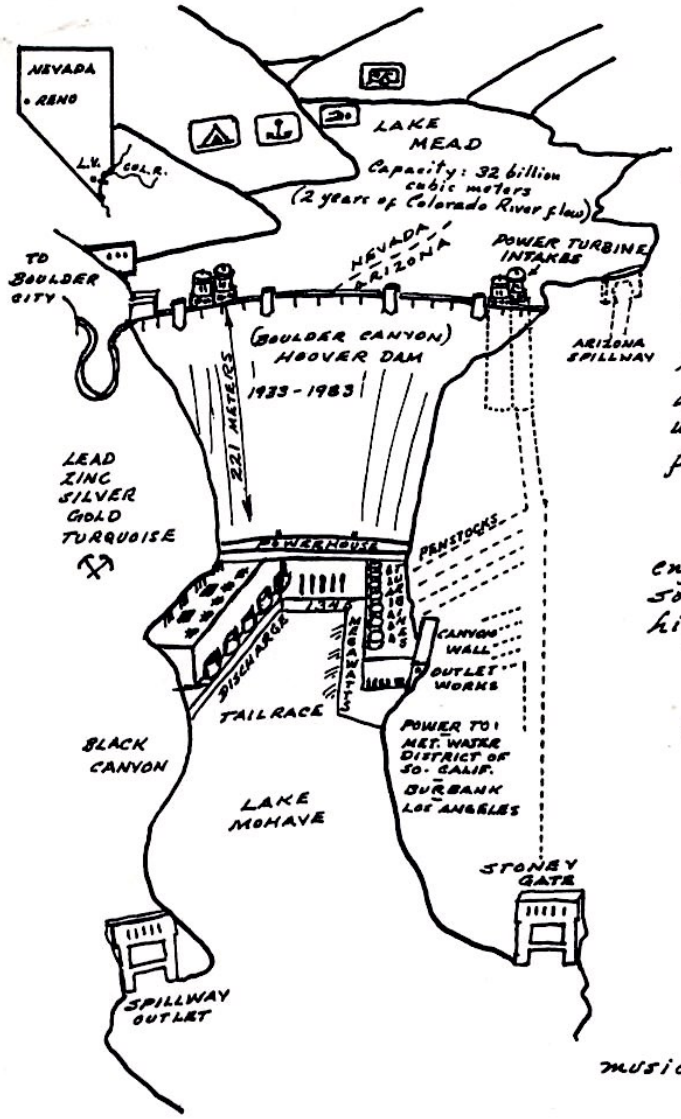
In June, John & I flew to Las Vegas for the water works meeting. "Sands, Dunes, Desert, Castaways and Sahara" certainly characterize the area. -- and, whoever named it "Circus, Circus" certainly knew his business.

North Las Vegas "totally nude!"









After John presented his paper, we toured the hydropower facilities at Hoover Dam.

We also visited the beautiful Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands with its 400 million year old, wind-carved, multi-colored sandstones.

Nearby, we found the Spring Mountain Ranch, now a state park after a long history dating back to 1830, when it was established as a campsite for travellers.

In Columbia, Tom and Heather enjoyed the vigorous learning and social activities of senior and junior high school, respectively.

VIGOROUS LEARNING/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

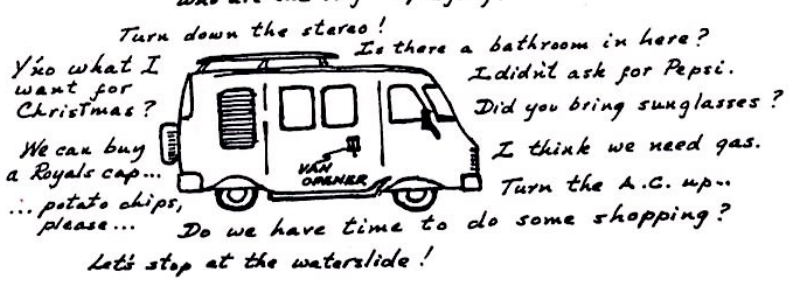
TOM:	HEATHER:
Guitar/Saxophone	~~Ballet~~ } cancel vigorous activities
Music Man	~~Gymnastics~~ } cancel vigorous activities
Annie	Choir
Jazz Band	Cheerleading Camp
Band Contests	Marching/Pep Band
	Pom-Pon
	Flag Squad

Tom also wrote, directed and played music for his senior class play.

Summer Mini-Vacations

Our family "vacation" this year was comprised of several trips to Kansas City and St. Louis.

On one special occasion, the Massachusetts Chapter of the Clever Clan (Bob, Cal, Jay, Susie) joined us in a rented van to go to a baseball game at scenic Royals stadium.





Country Club Plaza -- nation's first shopping center?

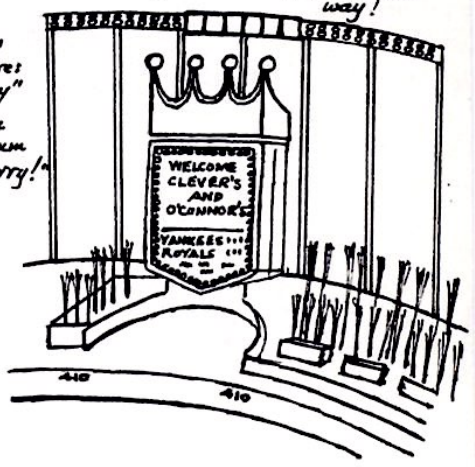
Crown Center-Hallmark

American Royal

INDEPENCE CENTER ... takes less space this way!

UMKC - Missouri Repertory Theatre: "Nicholas Nickleby"

Harry S. Truman Library & Museum "Give 'em hell, Harry!"



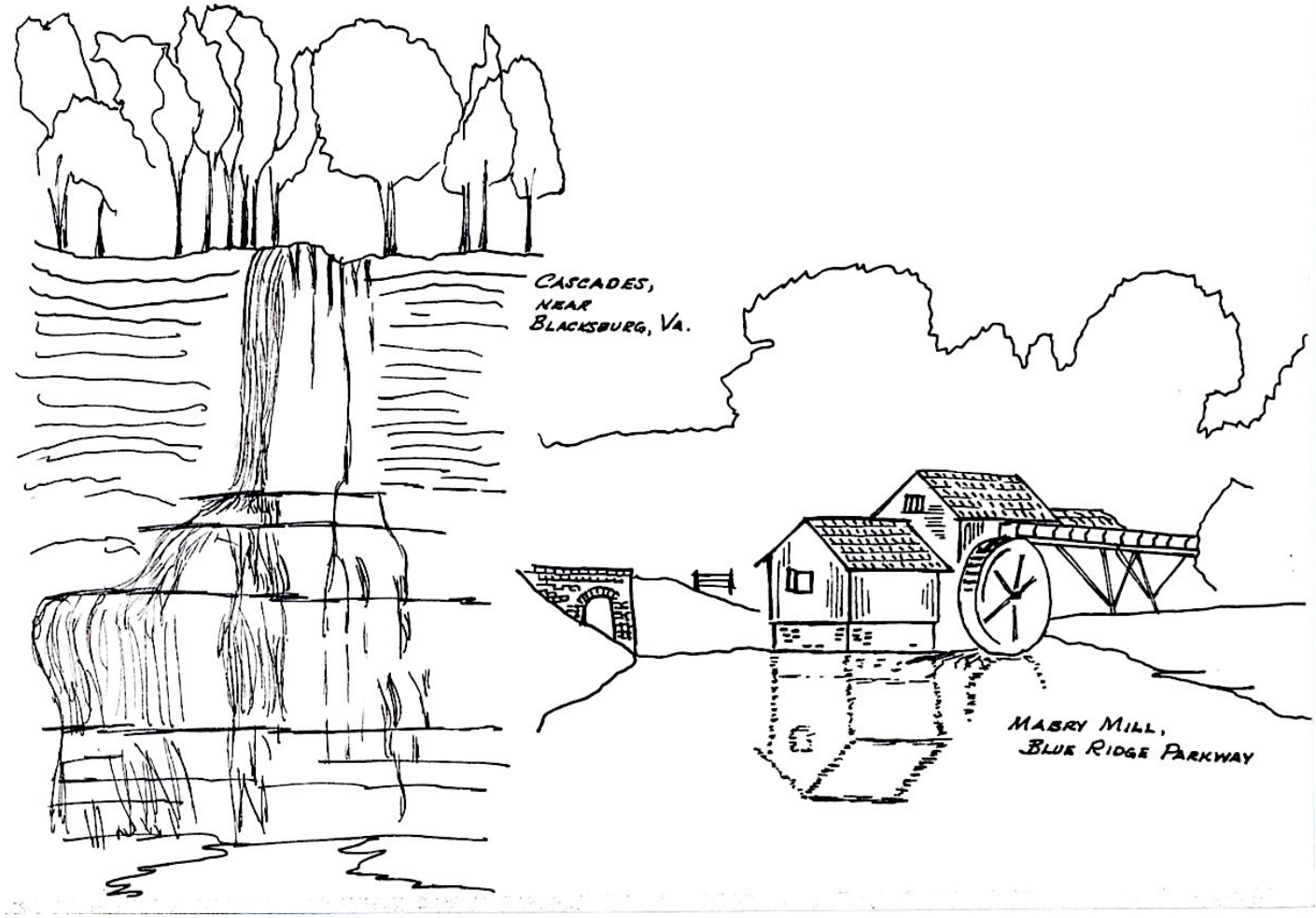
This autumn, several friends and I drove to Virginia to visit a friend. Together, we hiked, once in the pouring rain, on the trails of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

We visited Thomas Jefferson's Monticello home and dined at Michie Tavern. The countryside was cloaked in color.



MONTICELLO, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.

For the new year, we wish you health, happiness and friendship.



CASCADES, NEAR BLACKSBURG, VA.

MABRY MILL, BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY



We Wish You
A
Merry
Christmas
–
and
May your home
be filled
with the
clutter of
love, happiness,
family & friends
throughout
the coming
year.

1984
has been yet
another
happily
cluttered
year for us.

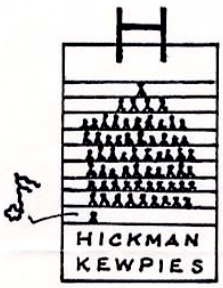
Tom enrolled in college this fall to study pop, jazz, rock and current movies. He will minor in electrical engineering, physics permitting.

Physics Quiz *ijk:
A 3.0-kg particle is at x=3.0m, y=8.0m with a velocity of v=5i-6j m/s. It is acted on by a 7.0N force in the negative x-direction. (a) What is the angular momentum of the particle? (b) What torque acts on the particle?

Mizzou Course Schedule:*

12:00	Polly Sci
1:00	Math 007
2:00	Physics Lab
3:00	Lunch
8:00	Music Appreciation
11:00	Late Show

*computer was unable to schedule Intro. to Computer Science because of conflict with lunch.



Heather moved on to her sophomore year in high school. During the fall, she got to see the sun rise weekdays at 6:30 a.m. as she marched downfield with the band. Weekends, she saw the sun rise at noon.

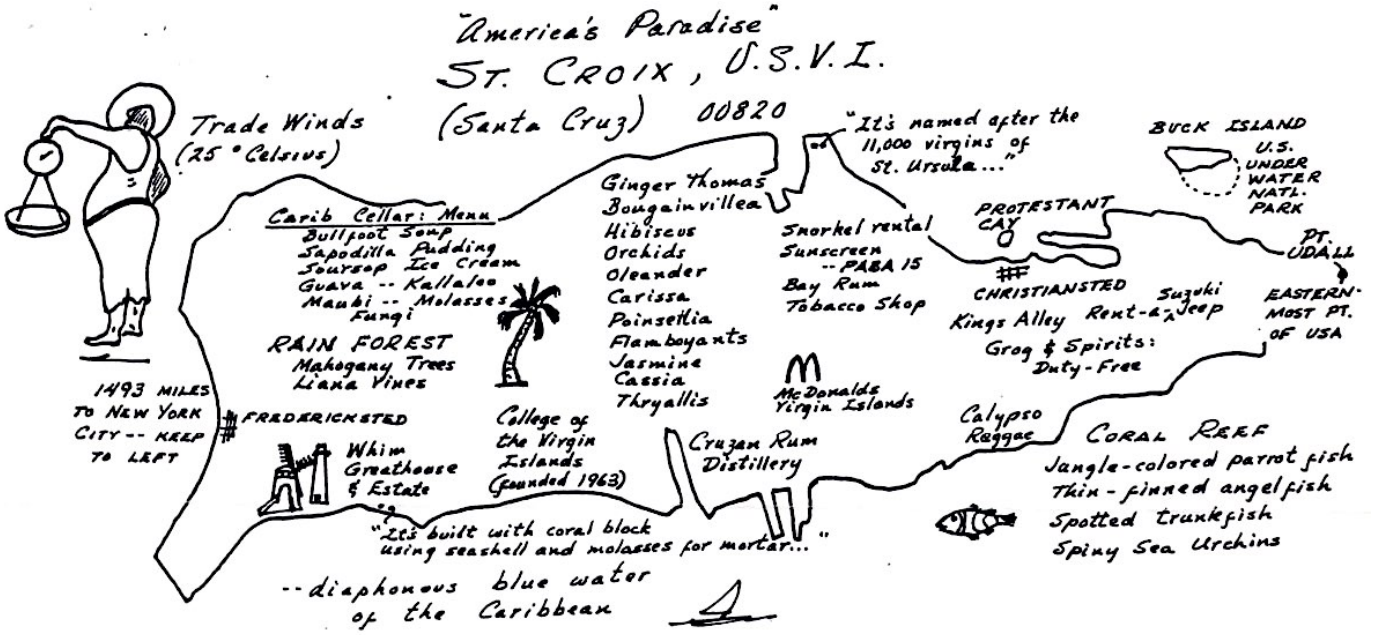


On a perfect day in October, John jogged / shuffled / walked through his first marathon. By the time he strolled past the finished line, he said he was already recovered.

"KBIA, FM 91, Public Radio Voice of the University of Missouri-Columbia now presents the Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam playing Mozart's Symphony No. 34 in C Major (K 338), conducted by George Szell and recorded on Deutsche Grammophon Gesellschaft..."

I continued to broadcast classical music on the University's public radio station. We get comments on the catchy titles of our musical selections.

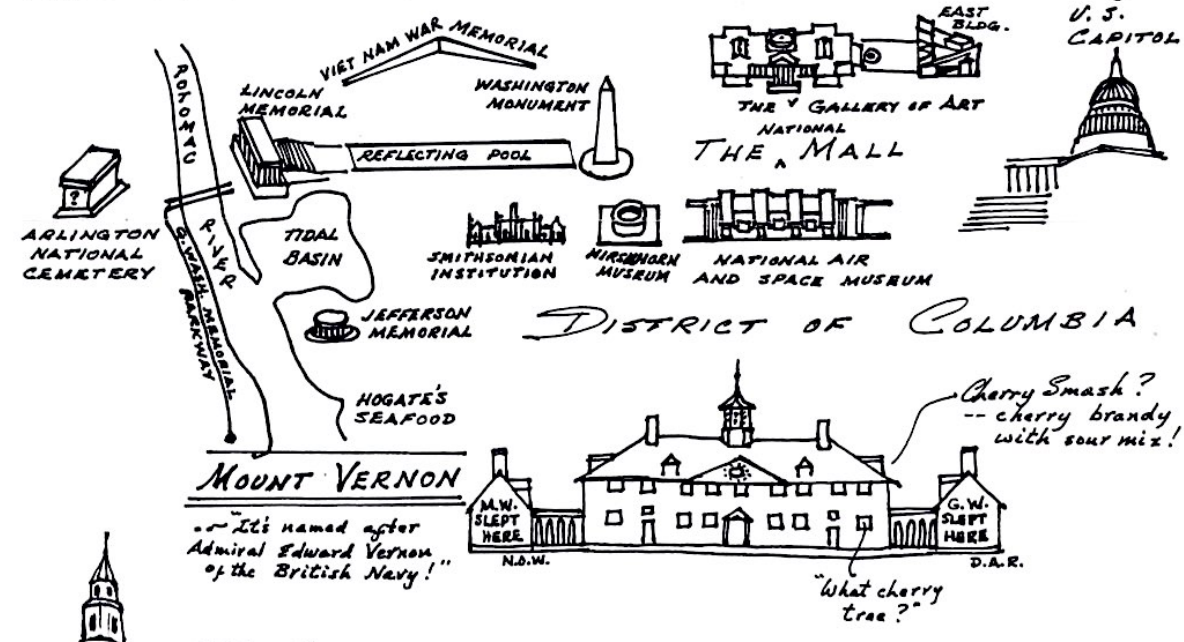




In March, we flew to St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, via Puerto Rico for a week of fun in the sun and water. We bobbed in the salt water as brightly colored tropical fish darted through the coral.

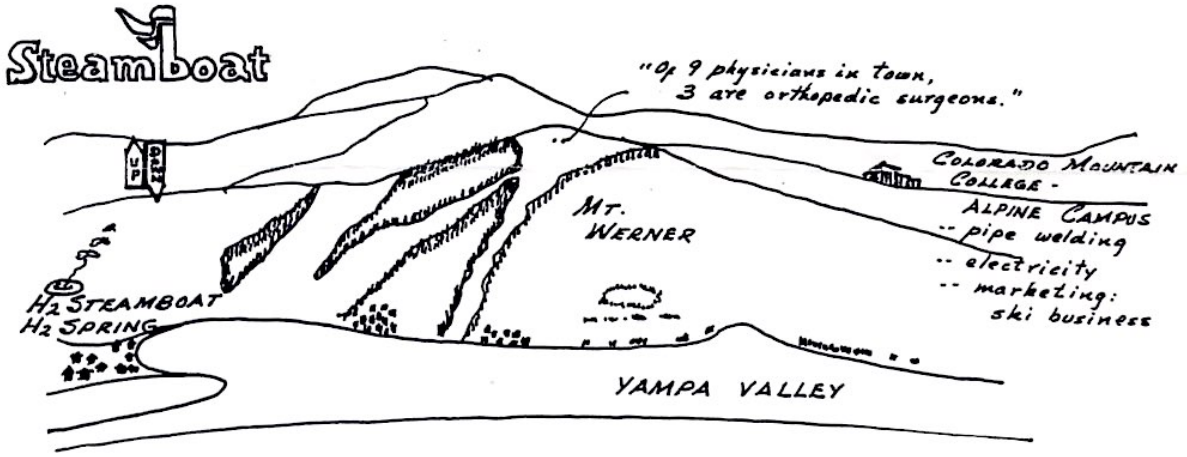
or "Was the weather nice?"

We visited the Nation's Capitol, Mt. Vernon and Colonial Williamsburg during our summer trip to Sunset Beach, N.C. There was much to see and learn about our nation's earliest days.



Colonial Williamsburg, Capitol of Virginia, 1699-1780.

Following a trip to Denver for a waterworks convention early in December, John and I continued on to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, for a brief ski vacation. Early snows had provided a 1.2 meter base for the ski slopes.



Whether your holiday scenery is white, green or something in-between, we hope you will share the happiness of the season with your family and friends.

Glad the weather is good for your trip here this year.

Love,
Joanne, John, Tom, + Heather



FREDERICKSTED, ST. CROIX, U.S.V.I.


AGNES


50th LYNN

SEASON'S GREETINGS



Snow
Frost
Rime
Iceberg
Glacier



Icy
Glacial
Frosty
Wintry
Boreal
Arctic

1985

Flake
Drift
Floe
Hoarfrost
Avalanche



Crystal
Sparkle
Frazil
Hailstone
Snowball



Chilblains
Frostbite
Nipping
Arctic
Merry
Crispness



We hope our 20th Christmas letter finds you happy, healthy and celebrating the holidays with family and friends. We also hope we will be in your thoughts, as you will be in ours, when we toast happy holiday memories.

This year, our family came together in Batavia, Illinois to celebrate a very rare family event --
-- the Golden Wedding Anniversary of my parents,
Lynn and Agnes Clever.

Friends and relatives gathered to join the golden celebration.



What hath this day deserved?
What hath it done that it in
golden letters shall be set
among the high tides in
the calendar?
W. Shakespeare

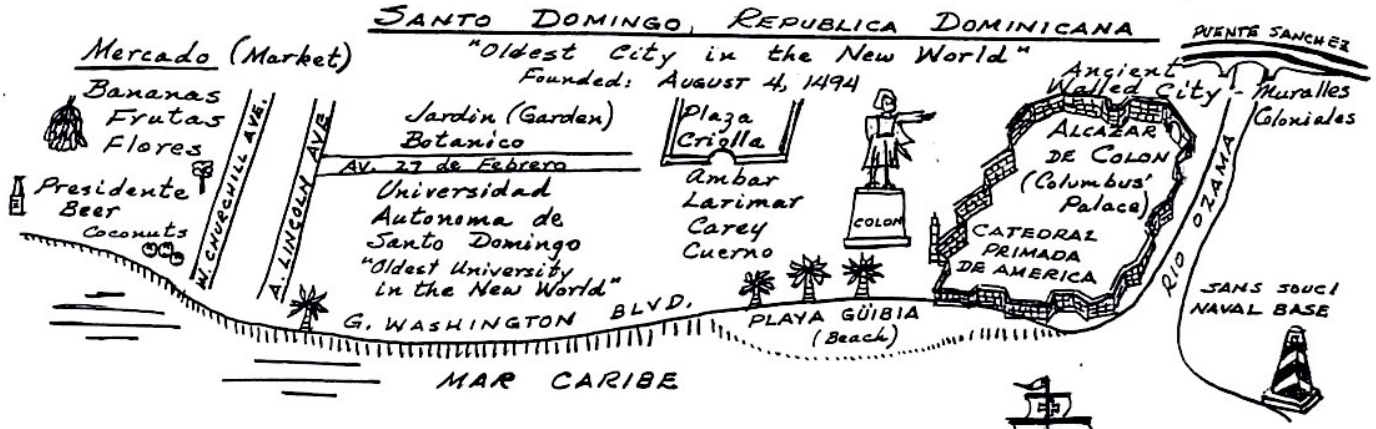
Why gatherest
these folk here?



With fifty years between you
and your well-kept wedding
vow,
The Golden Age, old friends of
mine, is not a fable now.
John Greenleaf Whittier

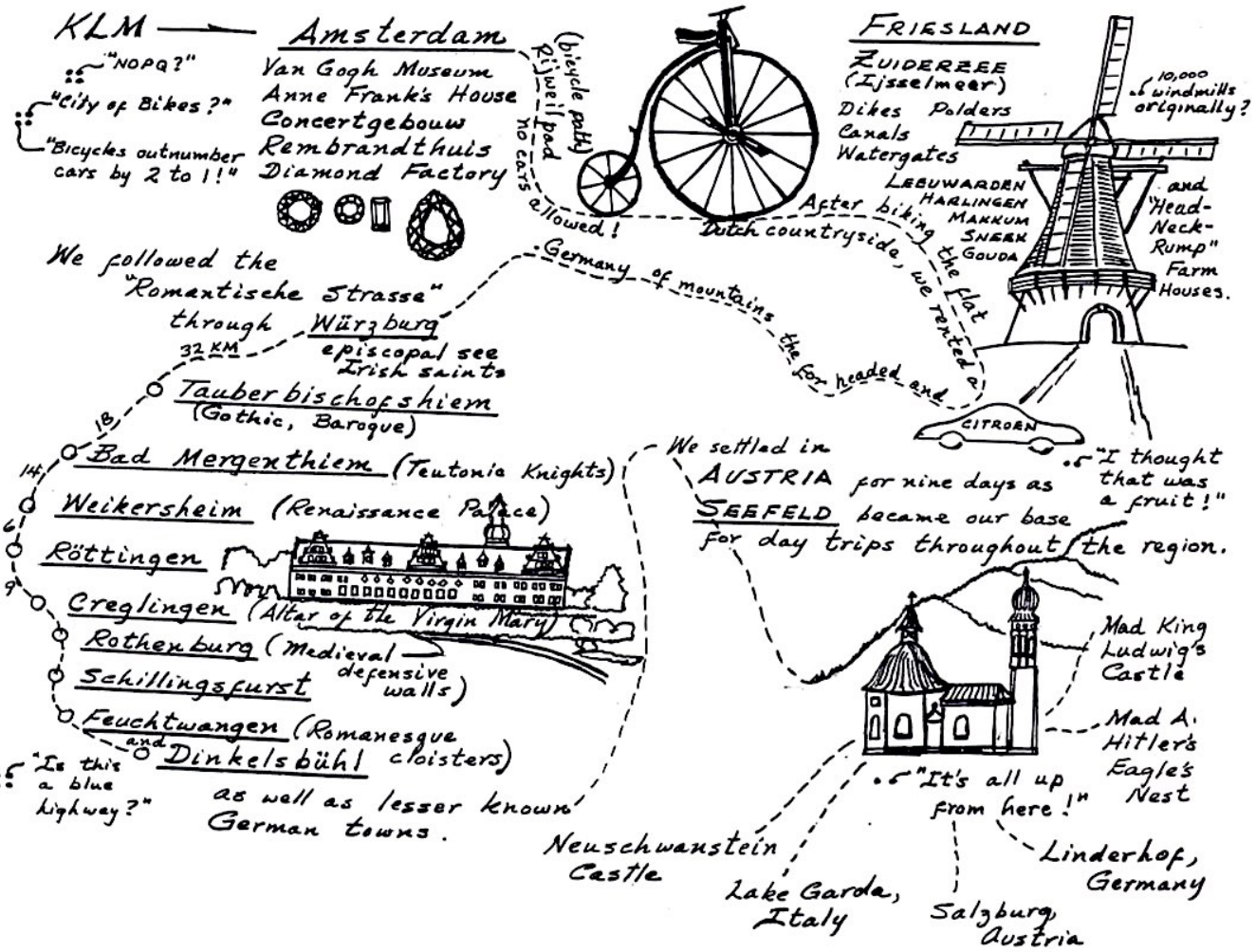


In March, we flew to Santo Domingo for a lovely Carribean vacation. It was a wonderful educational experience which took us back to the origins of the New World.





In September, I headed for Holland with three girlfriends for a week-long "Bike-the-Dike" trip through the northern province of Friesland. We enjoyed Amsterdam, but really loved the countryside. We saw Van Ruisdael's skies, first, in the Rijksmuseum, the next day, while biking in the Dutch countryside.



TOM

"Is he sophomoric?"

UMC Elect. Engr. Sophomore
Projectionist at Movie Theatre
Music - Guitar, Rock Group
Motorcycling
Active Social Schedule
"When does he do his homework?"

HEATHER

Junior - Hickman H.S.
Working at Drugstore — "Bring home some aspirin!"
H.S. Band, Flag Squad
Shows, Shopping, Travel
New Drivers License, Mobility

"Where's Heather now?"

N

W — E

S

JOHN

"Water is wet!"



Water Quality Research
Baltimore, MD.
Washington, D.C.
Houston, TX

Marathon "42 kilometers and you end up where you started."

JONI

National Public Radio, KBIA, Broadcaster
League of Women Voters, Chapter President
Columbia Art Fair
Hickman H.S. Music Boosters
Bowling / Biking / Jogging

"If it's Tuesday, we must be bowling!"

While we live together, our individual activities often take us in many different directions. However, we enjoy our precious hours together.

We hope that you will also enjoy your precious hours with your family during this holiday season.



A Calendar for the New Year *

January

1 Sleep Late
2 Visit a friend
3 Make faces in a mirror
4 Walk instead of ride
5 Read a poem aloud
6 Take a picture
7 Do something you'll be proud of
8 Blow bubbles
9 Express your thanks
10 Read an amusing book
11 Watch the sun rise
12 Don't worry about money
13 Pay someone a compliment
14 Rearrange a room
15 Write down your family tree
16 Buy a ticket to a special event.
17 Go somewhere you've never been
18 Waste some time
19 Give yourself a present
20 Have a picnic
21 Hug someone
22 Look at old photos
23 Watch children play
24 Go fishing (shopping)
25 Eat your favorite food
26 Don't do something - Sit there
27 Ask a friend to lunch
28 Go to a garage sale
29 Help a good cause
30 Drop a penny where someone will find it.
31 Be thankful
32 Ask an older person what he or she thinks.

* MHA of Oregon, 718 W. Burnside, Portland, OR 97209 ($3 for 12 posters)

Merry Christmas Merry Christmas Merry Chris
New Year Happy New Year Happy New Ye
Merry Christmas mas Merry Christ
Happy New Year ew Year Happy
Christmas s Merry Christ
Noel Noel oel Noel Noe



Our twenty first year together as a family has been another happy and healthy one filled with the joyous clamor and confusion we have come to expect and love — or at least to expect.

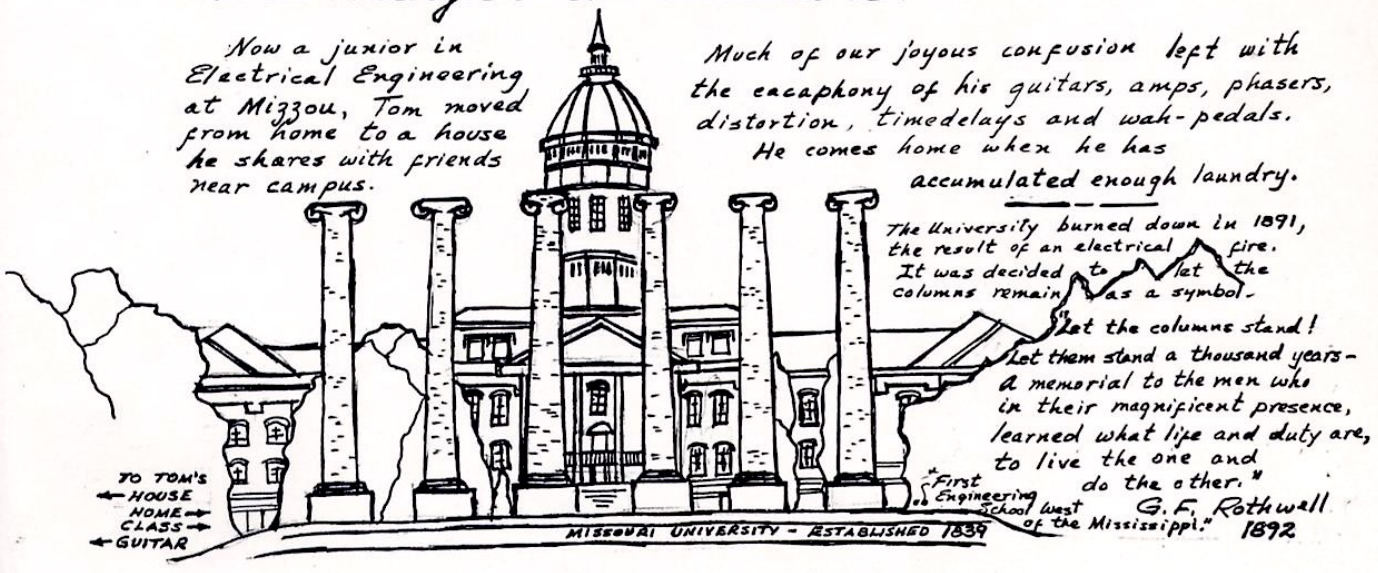
We hope that you also enjoyed a year of happy clamor and confusion amidst family and friends and that your New Year will become even more clamorous and bring still more joyous confusion.

"You can never be too confused, Charlie Blue .. er, Brown!"

Caution — this letter contains bragging, chortling and silly jokes — do not proceed further if you are easily bored or allergic to Christmas letters.

Now a junior in Electrical Engineering at Mizzou, Tom moved from home to a house he shares with friends near campus.

Much of our joyous confusion left with the cacophony of his guitars, amps, phasers, distortion, timedelays and wah-pedals. He comes home when he has accumulated enough laundry.



The University burned down in 1891, the result of an electrical fire. It was decided to let the columns remain as a symbol.

"Let the columns stand! Let them stand a thousand years - a memorial to the men who in their magnificent presence, learned what life and duty are, to live the one and do the other." G. F. Rothwell

"First Engineering School west of the Mississippi." 1892



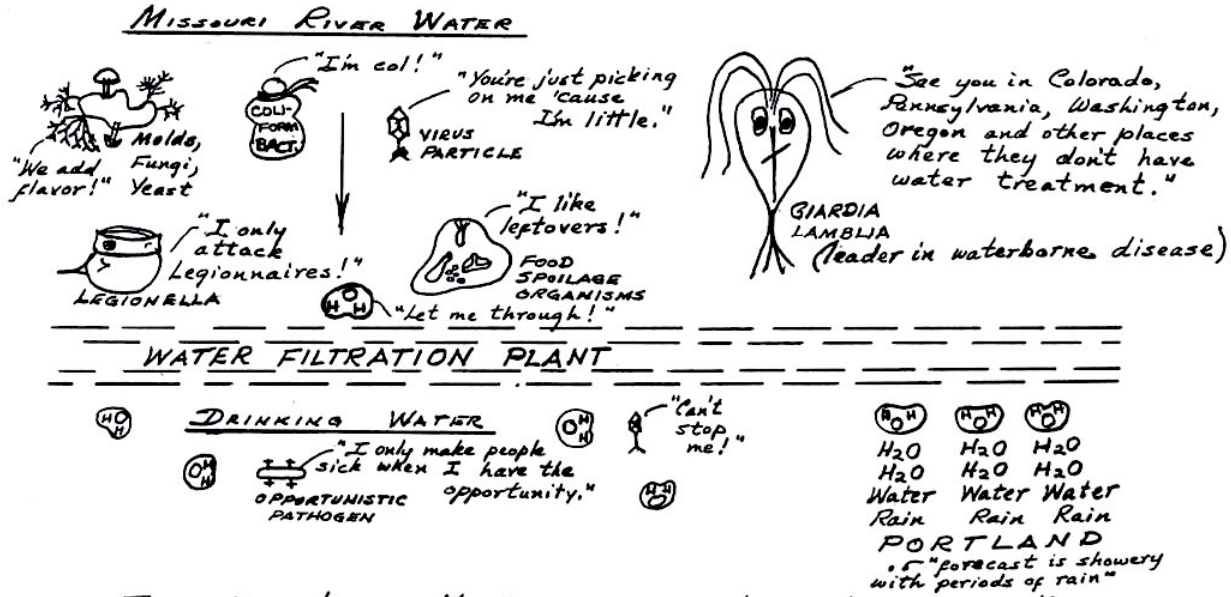
Choice of College:
(Check only one)

- ☐ Small Private College with large Public scholarship
- ☐ Mizzou (home)
- ☐ Illinois (away)
- ☐ MIT - Missouri Institute of Technology
- ☐ Slippery Rock State Univ.
- ☐ Cooper Union

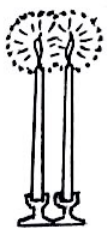
Heather became a high school senior and National Merit Scholar Semipinalist this year. She plans to leave home next year to attend college. The decrease in confusion at Leawood Terrace could well become unbearable. Meanwhile, Heather works at a local pharmacy, exercises, jogs, cooks and plays in the highschool band.

..6 "We're confused, but proud!"

John spent his time researching the removal of organisms from drinking water. While presenting the results at a meeting in Portland, he learned a new word, "showery." In the mid-west, it means rain.



I continued my Monday morning classical music radio broadcasts and started my second year as President of the Boone County Chapter of the League of Women Voters. It's a wonderful group of people to work with.



KBIA - "Accent on Music"
Columbia Art Fair - accent on art
Bicycling in Amish Country - accent on fall colors
30th High School Reunion - accent on nostalgia, neuralgia

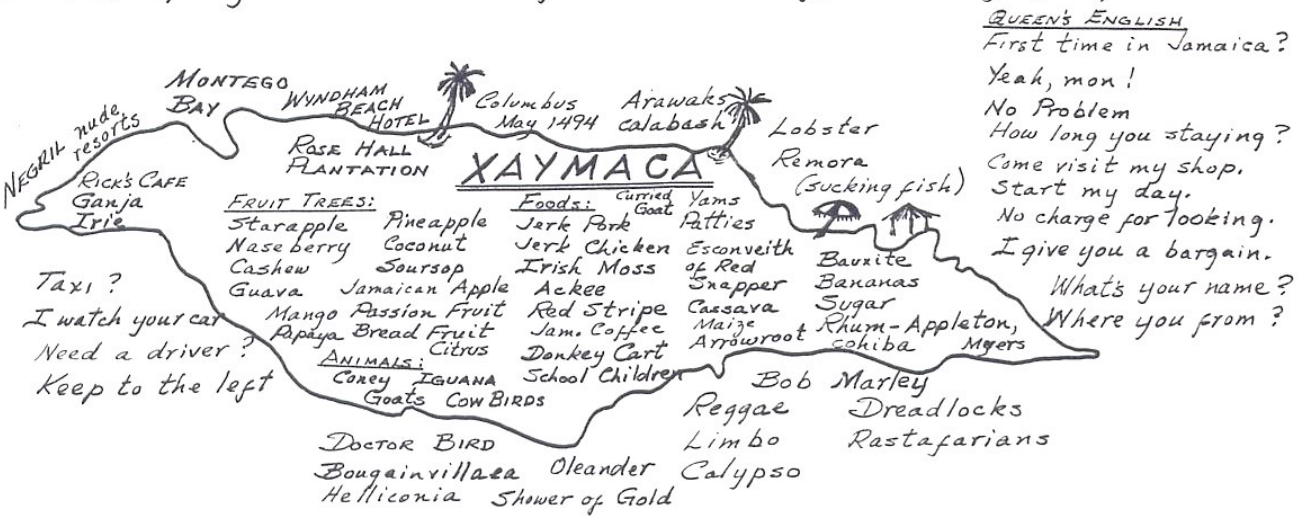




John, Heather and I continued our jogging. We entered some local races and enjoyed the competition. While Heather and I won several trophies in our age categories, John completed his third marathon.

..6 "Keep on trekkin!"

John, Heather and I made a trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica over spring break. It was fun to see a different way of life.



I found myself in Washington, D.C. twice during the year. In June, it was for the LWV National Convention and in December, it was for fun. Heather and I rondezvoused with friends to talk, shop, eat, jog, tour, browse and ride the Metro. Washington was very confusing. We liked it.

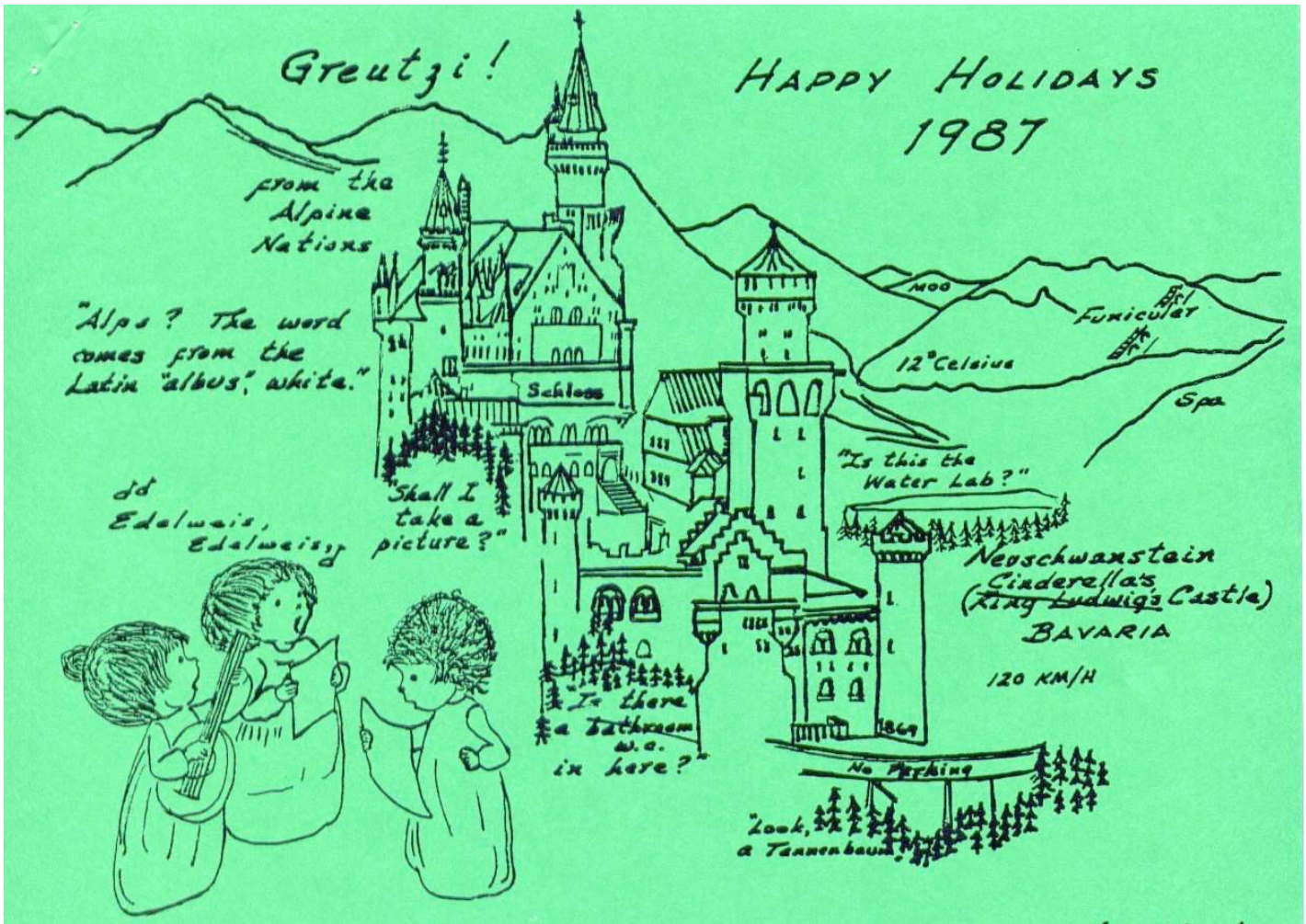
We liked the whole year.

We hope you liked your year and that your New Year will bring continued happiness and joy to you and those you love.

Merry Christmas!







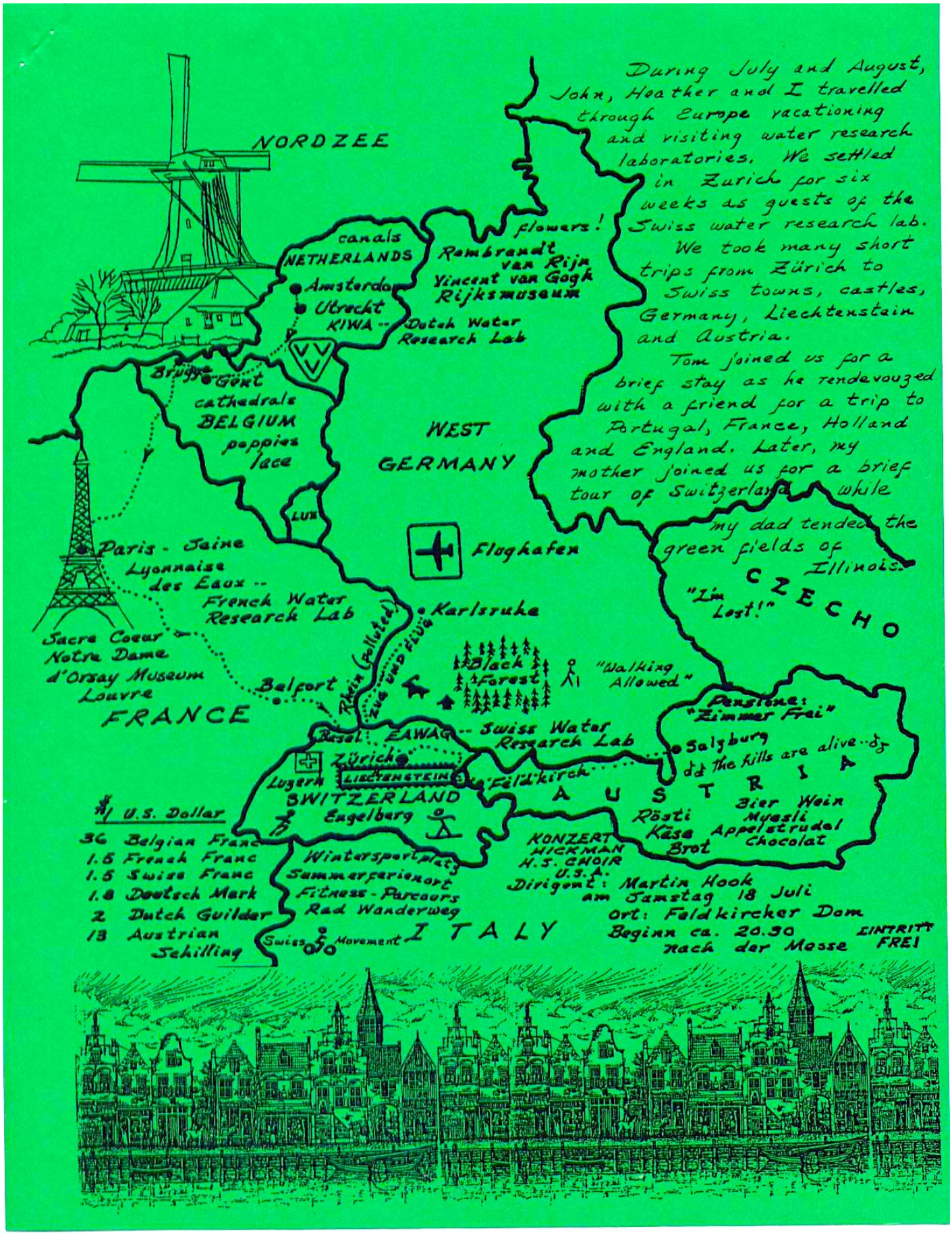
We hope you enjoyed another happy and healthful year. We trust you are looking forward to 1988 with joy and exhilaration.

This year, Heather headed off to college. Happily, college was only 2 kilometers away (Mizzou). As a National Marit Scholar, she is trying to live up to advance billing.

Tom is still computing his way through electrical engineering; enjoying the pleasures of college life while tolerating the academic demands that limit his social activities.

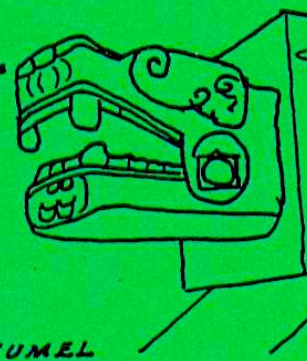
John is doing more research than ever despite continuing as department chairman.

For my part, my days are a potpourri of enjoyable activities ranging from bowling and bicycling to arranging for political candidates to argue with one another at League of Women Voter - sponsored debates.


NORDZEE
canals
NETHERLANDS
Amsterdam
Utrecht
KIWA -- Dutch Water Research Lab
flowers!
Rembrandt van Rijn
Vincent van Gogh
Rijksmuseum
Brugge
Gent
cathedrale
BELGIUM
poppies
lace
WEST GERMANY
LUX
Flughafen
Paris - Seine
Lyonnaise des Eaux --
French Water Research Lab
Sacre Coeur
Notre Dame
d'Orsay Museum
Louvre
FRANCE
Karlsruhe
Rhein (polluted)
Nur und Fisch
Black Forest
"Walking Allowed"
Belfort
Basel
EAWAG -- Swiss Water Research Lab
Zürich
LIECHTENSTEIN
Feldkirch
Lugern
SWITZERLAND
Engelberg
Salzburg
Pensione: "Zimmer Frei"
dß the hills are alive.. dß
AUSTRIA
Bier Wein
Rösti Müesli
Käse Apfelstrudel
Brot Chocolat
CZECHO
"Im Lost!"
During July and August, John, Heather and I travelled through Europe vacationing and visiting water research laboratories. We settled in Zurich for six weeks as guests of the Swiss water research lab.
We took many short trips from Zürich to Swiss towns, castles, Germany, Liechtenstein and Austria.
Tom joined us for a brief stay as he rendevouzed with a friend for a trip to Portugal, France, Holland and England. Later, my mother joined us for a brief tour of Switzerland while my dad tended the green fields of Illinois.
1 U.S. Dollar
36 Belgian Franc
1.6 French Franc
1.5 Swiss Franc
1.8 Deutsch Mark
2 Dutch Guilder
13 Austrian Schilling
Wintersportplatz
Sommerferienort
Fitness-Parcours
Rad Wanderweg
Swiss Movement
ITALY
KONZERT
HICKMAN
H.S. CHOIR
U.S.A.
Dirigent: Martin Hook
am Samstag 18 Juli
Ort: Feldkircher Dom
Beginn ca. 20.30
nach der Messe
EINTRITT FREI



During spring break, we travelled to Cancun, Mexico to enjoy the remnants of the wonders of the ancient Mayan civilization.







Olmec Head -- decapitated ball player with leather helmet.

We feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit these places this past year, gaining insight into fascinating lifestyles and cultures. From sharing a small part of the lives of new friends, our world will never be the same.

To our new, as well as our old friends,

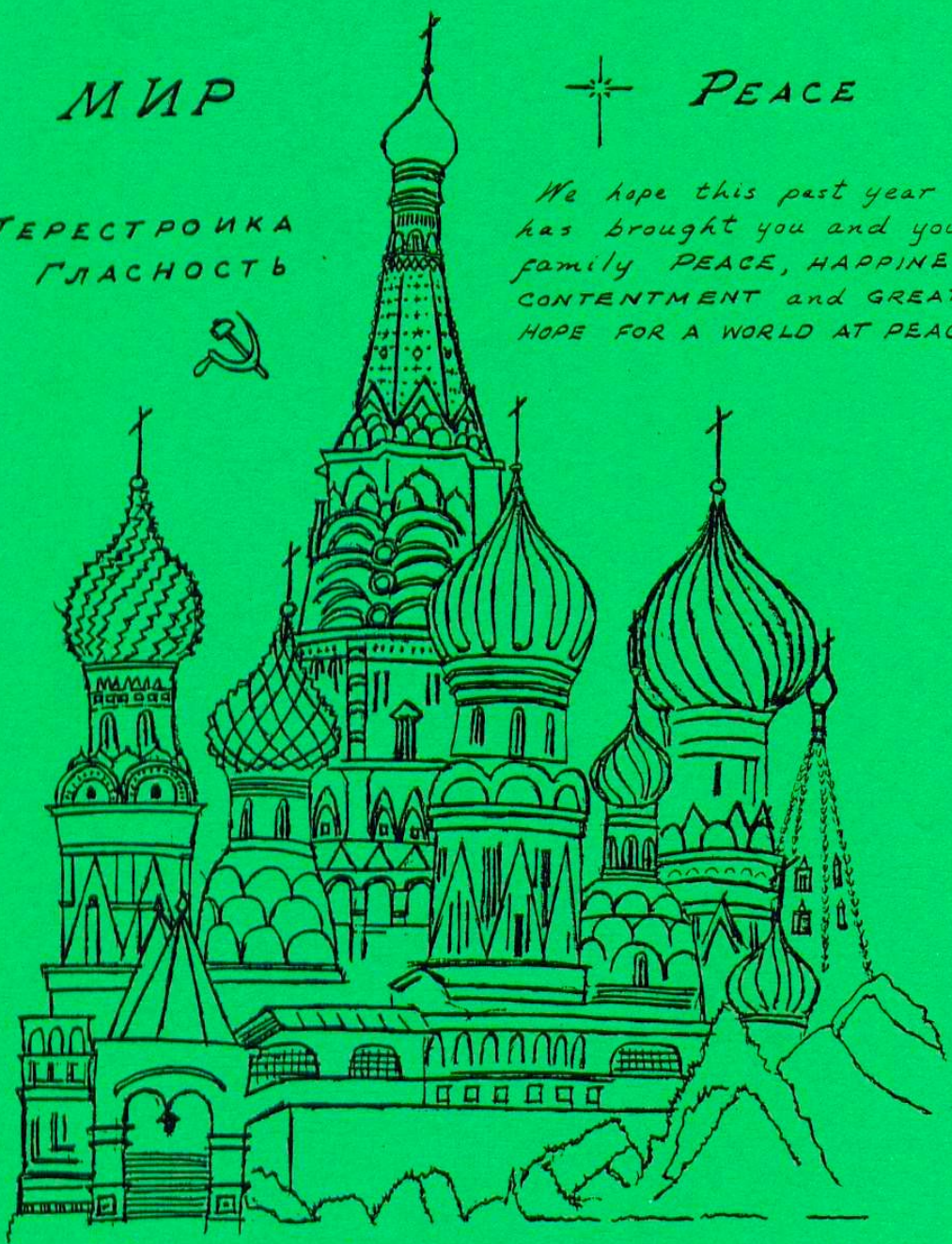
MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

МИР

ПЕРЕСТРОИКА
ГЛАСНОСТЬ

PEACE

We hope this past year has brought you and your family PEACE, HAPPINESS, CONTENTMENT and GREATER HOPE FOR A WORLD AT PEACE.



This past October, as part of the U.S. contribution to world peace, John visited the Soviet Union. He was a member of a H.U.D. technical exchange group assigned to observe Soviet building and utility construction.

While warmly and openly received, the U.S. engineers never imagined that the acknowledged poor construction material and practice would soon lead to an unprecedented disaster in Soviet Armenia. The planned Soviet reconstruction (perestroika) had come too late.

Having seen the happiness of a Soviet family on occupying their fifteenth floor apartment after years of waiting for housing, the tragedy of the earthquake's destruction became far more personal.

As my contribution to world peace, and for the fun of it, I attended the national convention of the League of Women Voters in Denver. Since it was an election year, it was an especially exciting meeting.

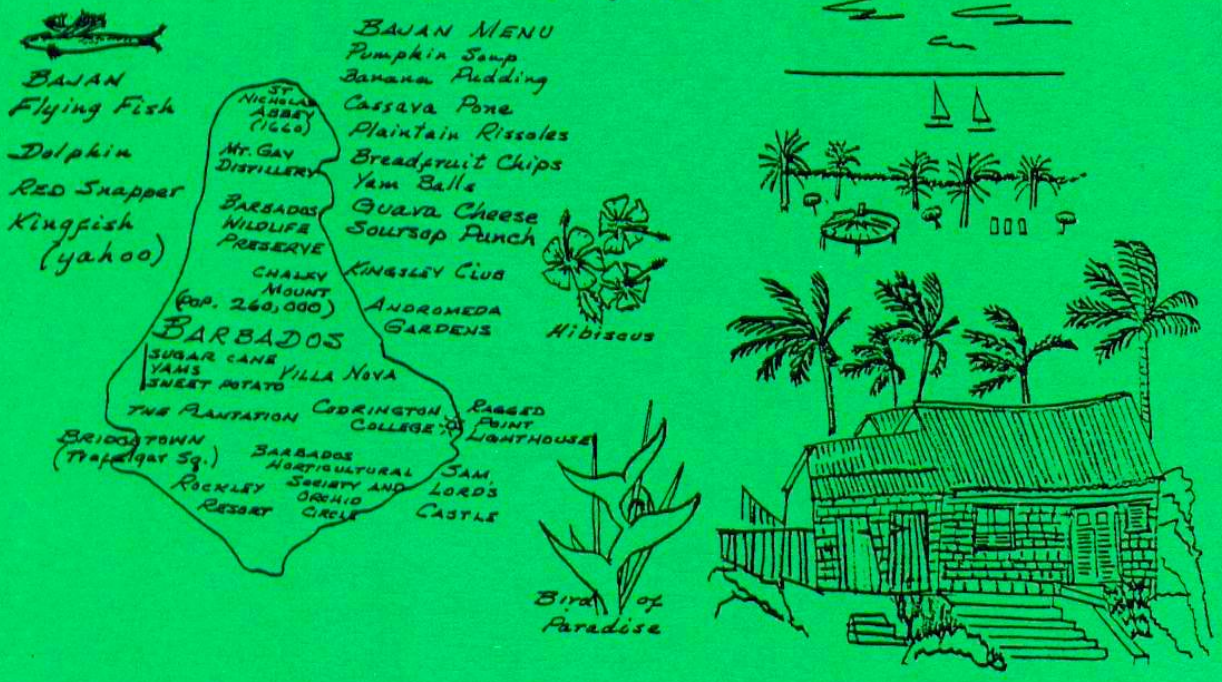
While the big politicians stole the League's 1988 Presidential debates, most observers agreed the compromised "debates" were a loss to American voters.

"Read my lips! No new taxes!"
• ~ How about "No new debt?"

"You're no Jack Kennedy!"
• ~ He's no Martin Van Buren, either.

"L" words: libelous, lecherous, leech, liar, louse, legislator, libertine, (il)legitimate, lewd, lust, libido, Lesbian, limited, listless, lip-read, lip-service, lily-white, litmus, litigious, lobotomy, loathsome, Liederkranz, Limburger.

BARBADOS ("bearded" fig trees) is a former British colony; now, a Caribbean island resort. We visited Barbados with friends over spring vacation. We found the most easterly Caribbean island fascinating with its cane fields, plantation houses, distilleries, fishing villages, botanical gardens, wildlife preserves, cricket fields, coral sand beaches and blue lagoons.



Both Tom and Heather continued their studies at the University. For fun, Tom played guitar with his musical group,

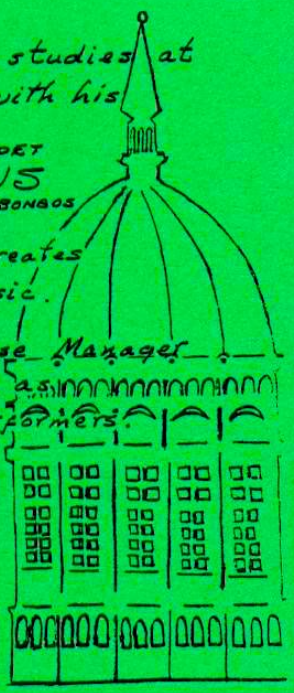
SAXOPHONE DRUMS TRUMPET
SPANKIN' RUFUS
TROMBONE GUITAR KEYBOARD BASS BONGOS

Comprised primarily of music majors, the group creates original ~~jazz, rock, reggae, new wave,~~ electronic music.

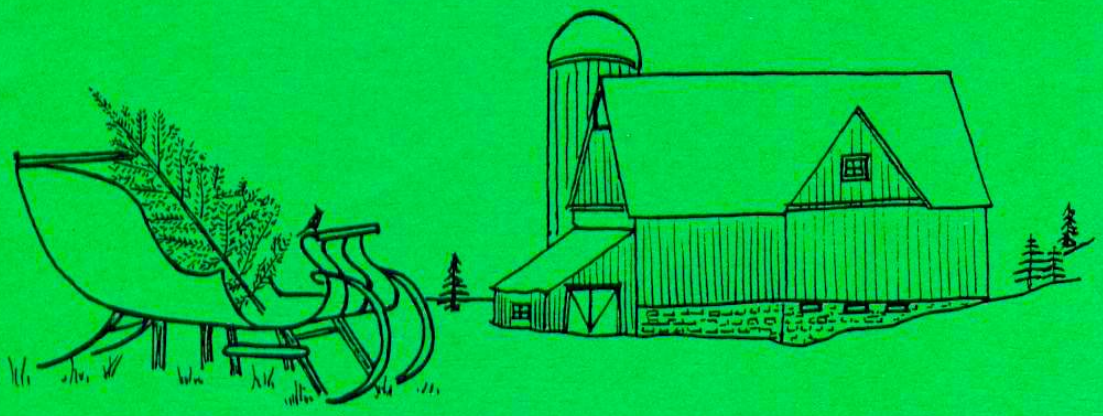
For her diversion, Heather worked as House Manager for the University Concert Series. In her role as coordinator, she met many nationally known performers.

University of Missouri 150 1839-1989

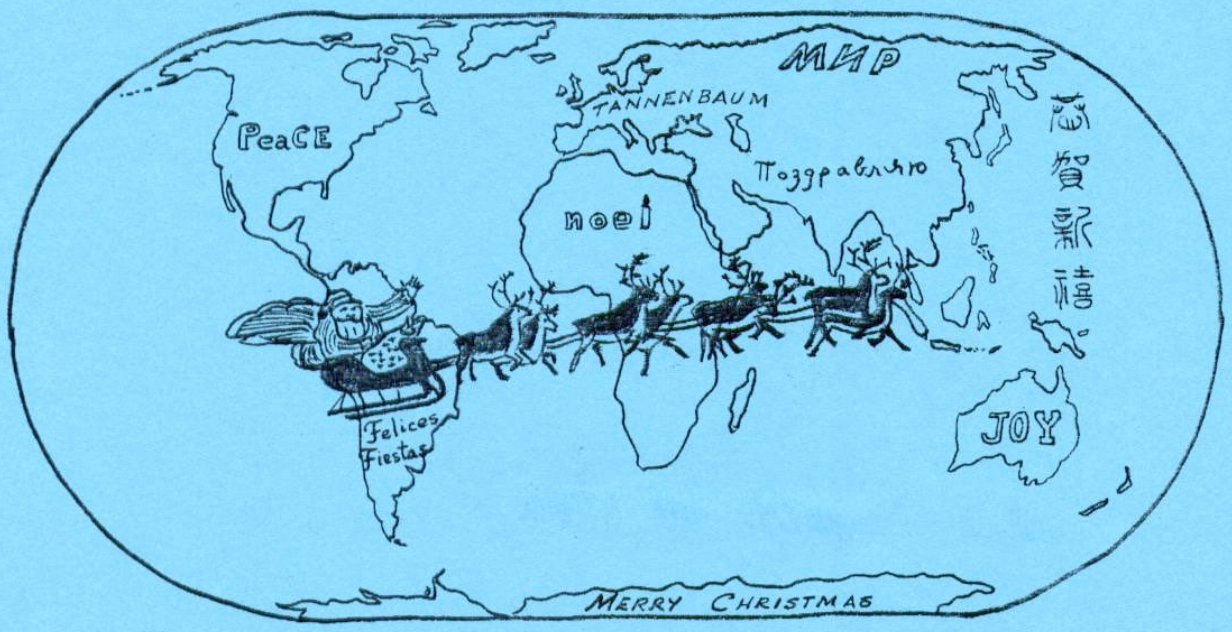
Gerry Mulligan Quartet
Scottish Chamber Orchestra
Prague Symphony Orchestra
Canadian Brass
King's Singers



We hope that the coming year will continue to bring peace and happiness to you, your family and the world.



Christmas 1989 brings hope that the 1990's will bring greater peace, unity and happiness to our World.



University of Missouri 150 1839-1989

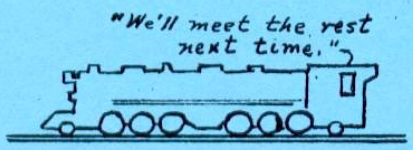
This year has brought much happiness to our family. A major event has been Tom's graduation (B.S. Electrical Engineering) during the University's Sesquicentennial Celebration.

After a summer trip to Sweden, Tom enrolled for graduate study in Civil (Construction) Engineering. Still, his greatest interest remains Spankin' Rufus. His six-member musical group composes original music and performs regularly around Columbia.

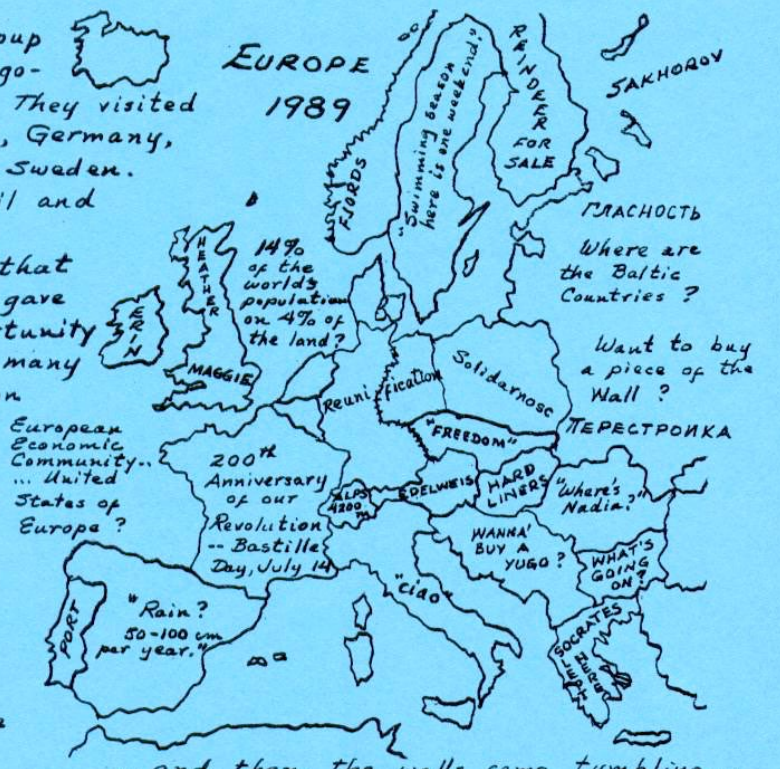
"Who gave it that name?"

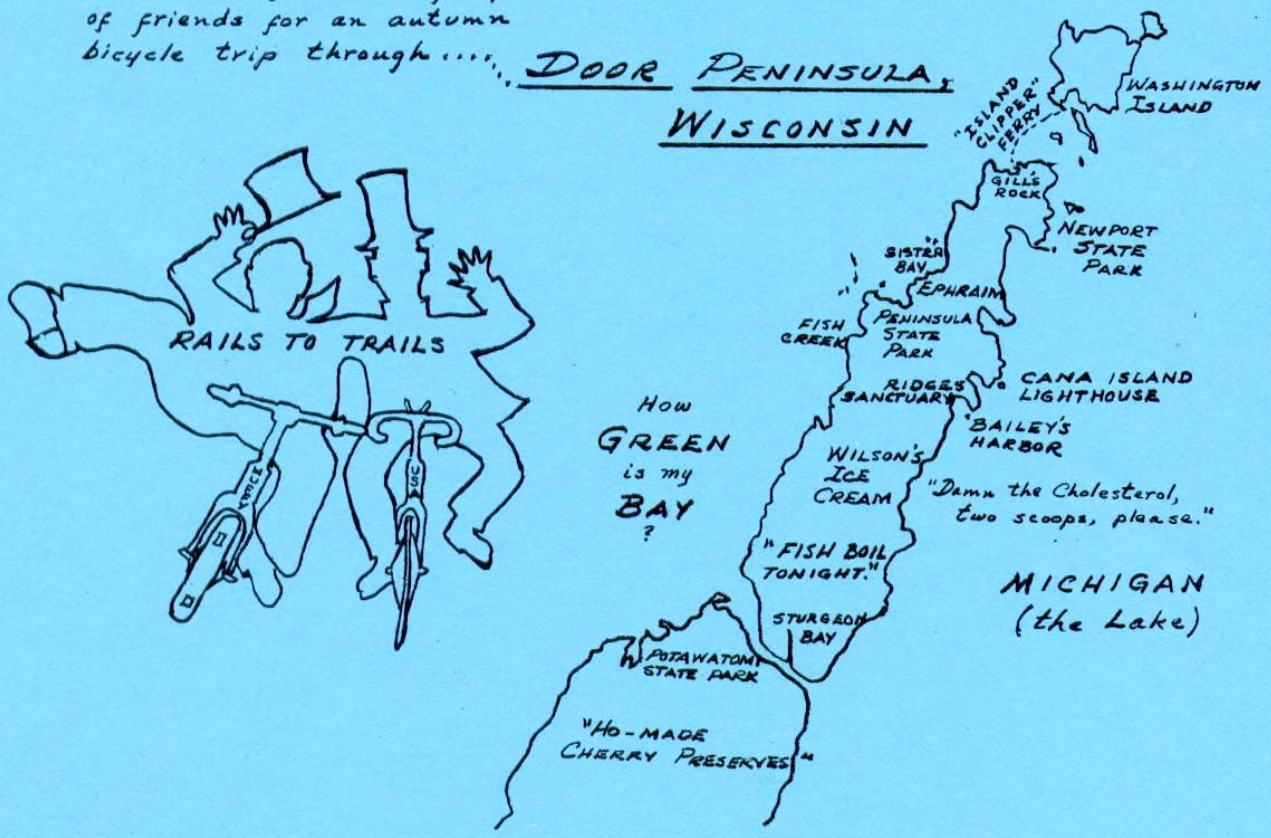


Heather joined a group of friends for a happy-go-lucky month in Europe. They visited Denmark, Holland, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Sweden. They travelled by Eurail and stayed at hostels and pensiones. They felt that travelling like gypsies gave them a wonderful opportunity to meet and talk to many of the nearly 500 million Europeans.



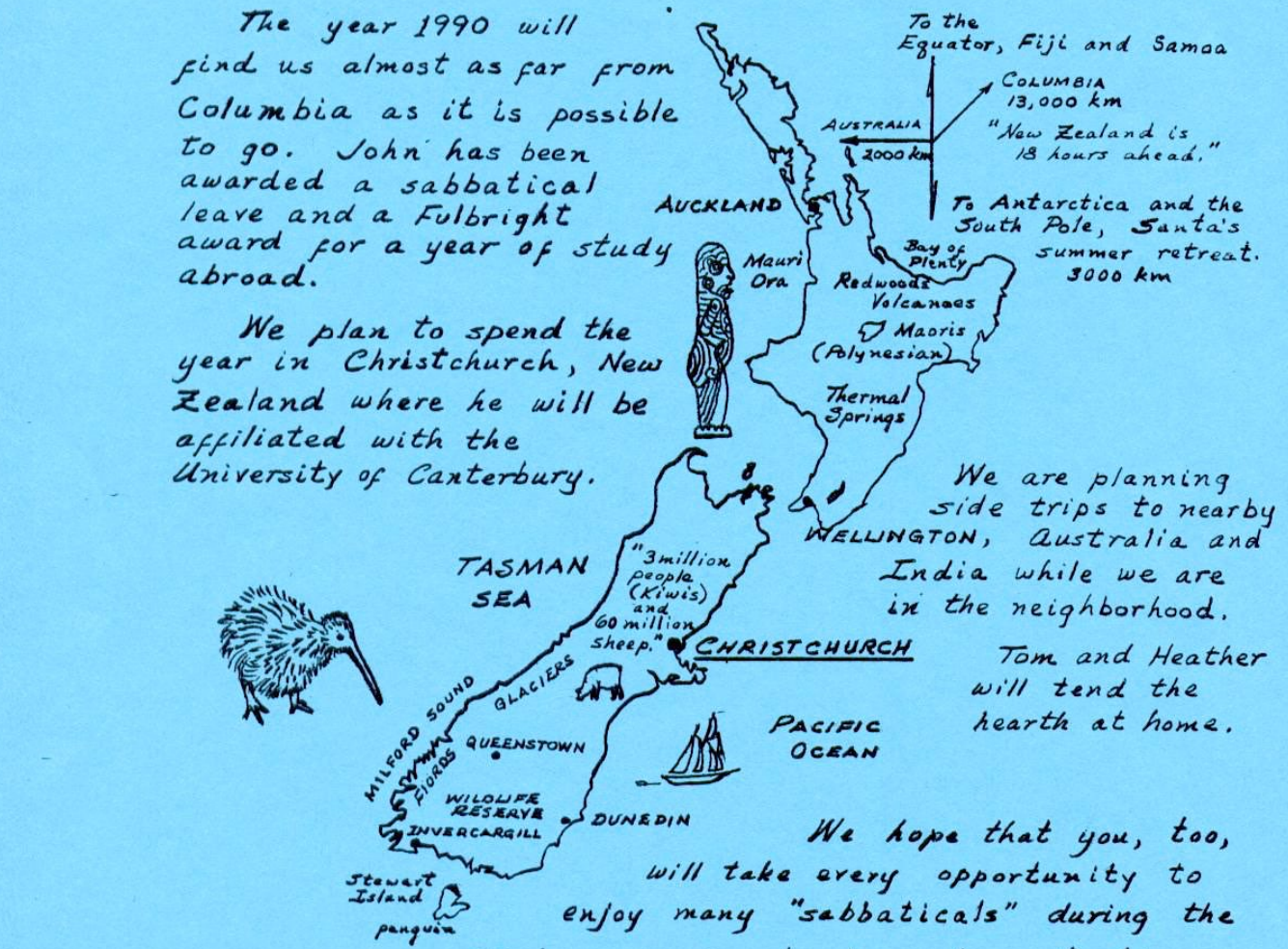
After completing my second (and final) term as President of the Boone County League of Women Voters, I joined a group of friends for an autumn bicycle trip through....





The year 1990 will find us almost as far from Columbia as it is possible to go. John has been awarded a sabbatical leave and a Fulbright award for a year of study abroad.

We plan to spend the year in Christchurch, New Zealand where he will be affiliated with the University of Canterbury.

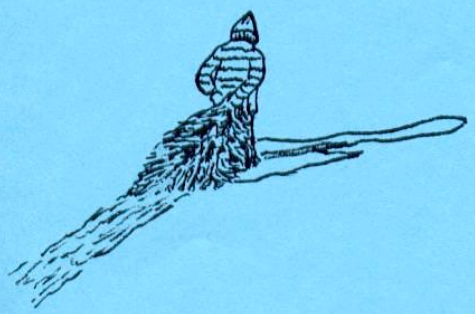


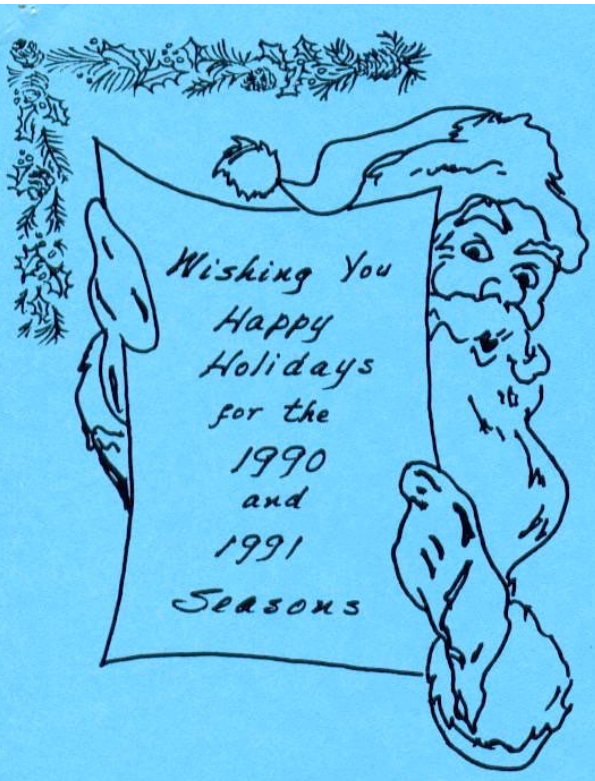
We are planning side trips to nearby Australia and India while we are in the neighborhood.

Tom and Heather will tend the hearth at home.

We hope that you, too, will take every opportunity to enjoy many "sabbaticals" during the coming years, sharing pleasant times with family and friends on every possible occasion.

Happy '90's!





CHRISTCHURCH

NEW ZEALAND

AUSTRALIA

Thoughts of Christmas don't come easily in New Zealand when gardens are blooming, the world is at its greenest and everything seems upside-down.

Christmas 1990 found the four O'Connors right-side up on the South Island of this incredibly beautiful country.

TONGA

FIJI

NEW CALEDONIA

SAMOA

NEW HEBRIDES

INDONESIA

Tom and Heather joined John and me toward the end of our year in Christchurch where John was enjoying a sabbatical at the University of Canterbury. Chch, "the Garden City," with its Avon and Heathcote Rivers, is reputedly more English than England. Many of England's finest traditions are reflected in its cathedrals, museums, Arts Centre, parks boulevards and what are among the finest BOTANIC GARDENS in the world.

HAWAII

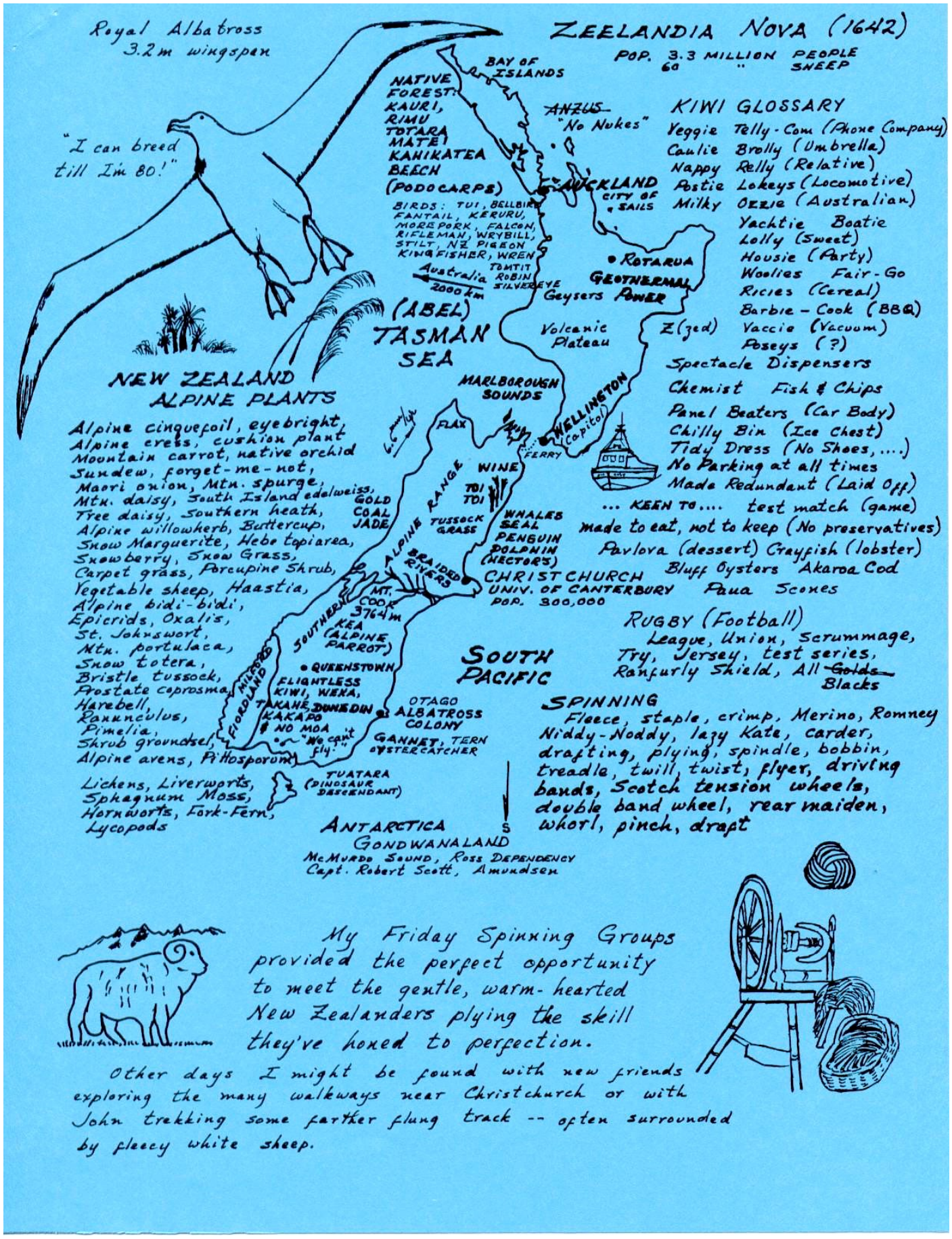
Our family South Island travels took us to Mount Cook (Maori name: AORANGI - the Cloud Piercer), Queenstown (Bungy jumping), the rainforests, untamed beaches and massive glaciers (FOX, FRANZ JOSEF) of the West Coast.

We also penetrated FIORDLAND'S MILFORD SOUND (10 meters annual rainfall) to find the magnificent peaks and waterfalls uncharacteristically bathed in sunshine.

COLUMBIA

NORTH AMERICA

USSR



My Friday Spinning Groups provided the perfect opportunity to meet the gentle, warm-hearted New Zealanders plying the skill they've honed to perfection.

Other days I might be found with new friends exploring the many walkways near Christchurch or with John trekking some farther flung track -- often surrounded by fleecy white sheep.

In 1991, we settled back into our relaxed Mid-Missouri lifestyle. John taught drinking water and solid waste management courses to enthusiastic students. Tom continued study toward a Master of Business Administration. Working part-time for the Columbia Public Works Department, he helped initiate the City's yard waste composting program. His SPANKIN' RUFUS continued to be a popular part of Columbia's entertainment scene.

Heather worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation on a fish survey during the summer and returned to her Biology studies in the autumn. Near semester's end, she joined 244 voices and the University Philharmonic in performing Mozart's "Requiem" before a packed auditorium on the 200th Anniversary of his death.

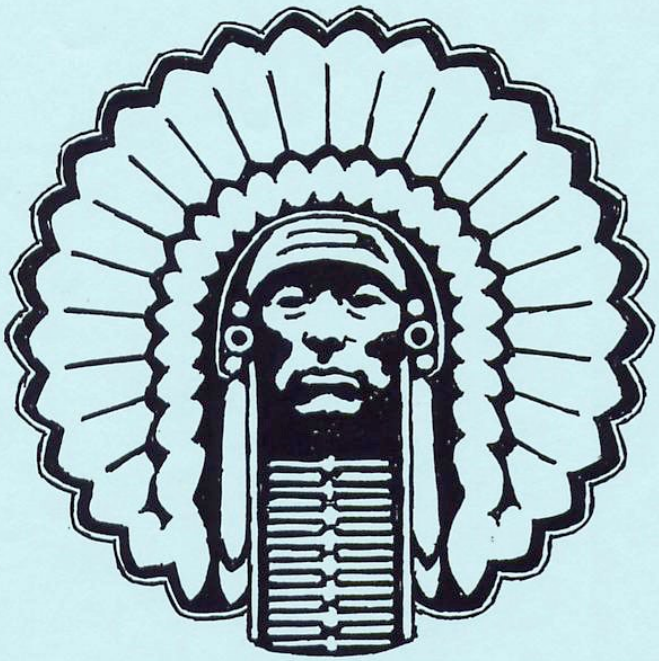
My bicycle logged many ~~miles~~ Km. on the Katy Trail along the Missouri River. In the future, John and I hope to enjoy "bed and breakfast" along the 320 km of proposed trail. We invite you to bring your bike and join us.

Botanic Gardens - Christchurch, New Zealand -





HOLIDAY GREETINGS!



We hope you have had a tranquil, but eventful, 1992 and are looking forward to another year of the same.

Our tranquility was a bit ruffled when John decided to accept a coveted position as:

CHIEF, ILLINOIS STATE WATER SURVEY.

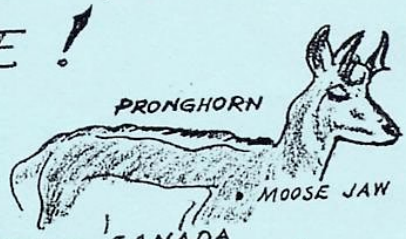


As a result, this holiday season finds us at home in Champaign, Illinois.



However, occasionally, every family's tranquility can be punctuated with

ADVENTURE!



HEATHER's adventuresome spirit has taken her to the UNIVERSITY OF **Montana**



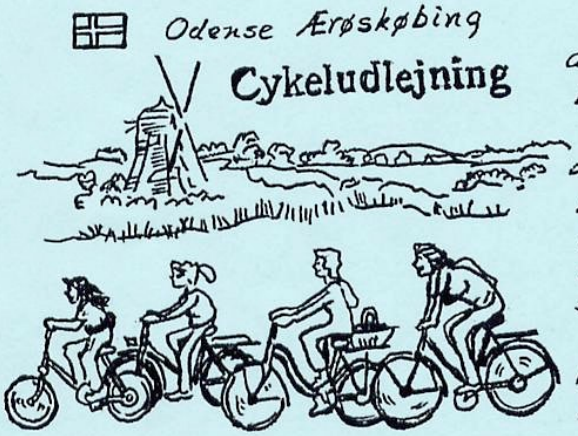
LODGEPOLE PINE

CUTTHROAT TROUT

dd where the graceful white swan goes gliding along, like a maid in a heavenly dream dd



where she is trying to thaw out a degree in biology. Her field trips take her to the habitat of the bighorn sheep and bison.



In June, HEATHER and I accompanied another mother-daughter duo on a bicycling trip around **Fyn, Danmark.**

We spent a wonderful two weeks drifting from hostels to castles to bed-and-breakfasts -- stopping along the way at Elsinore Castle, Tivoli Gardens, the Hans Christian Andersen Museum and to see the Little Mermaid.

Flowers were everywhere -- even the poppies growing in sidewalk cracks were healthy and vivid.

TOM's six-member band ventured on tour in an old school bus to entertain numerous midwestern audiences. They are planning to produce their second compact disc this spring.

LAWRENCE, KS
WICHITA
COLUMBIA MO
ST. LOUIS, KANSAS CITY FULTON
CHICAGO, IL
NASHVILLE, TN
FAYETTEVILLE, AR
LITTLE ROCK
DALLAS, TX
AUSTIN
HOUSTON

JOHN's adventures, as usual, centered on water research. A special opportunity has led him to return to the UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS campus to work with the air and water research staff of the nearly century-old

ILLINOIS STATE WATER SURVEY



Spankin' Rufus

RINGS ON THEIR FINGERS, BELLS ON THEIR TOES, ...



My brother, BOB, married BONNIE BARRETT in October. MOM, DAD and I flew to Boston to join many other friends in celebrating the event.

TOM became engaged to ANDREA GREBLER of Clayton, MO. in November. They met while students at Mizzou. ANDREA is wearing a diamond and we are wearing smiles. ← "Tom also completed his M.B.A. this year!"

If not with "adventures," we hope your New Year will be filled with many little delights and pleasant surprises. During this holiday season, we hope you will enjoy the comfort of family and treasured friends and that you will recall fond memories of good times past.

As always,

the O'Connors





Mom & Dad (77) (93)

The O'Connor Family wishes you a
Happy 1993 Holiday Season

We
are
all
home for
the holidays.

John is just
back from visiting
a water plant in
Arkansas. "It's wet
there!"

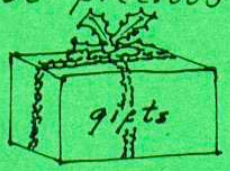
Heather has returned
from her studies in
Missoula, Montana. "It's cold
there!"

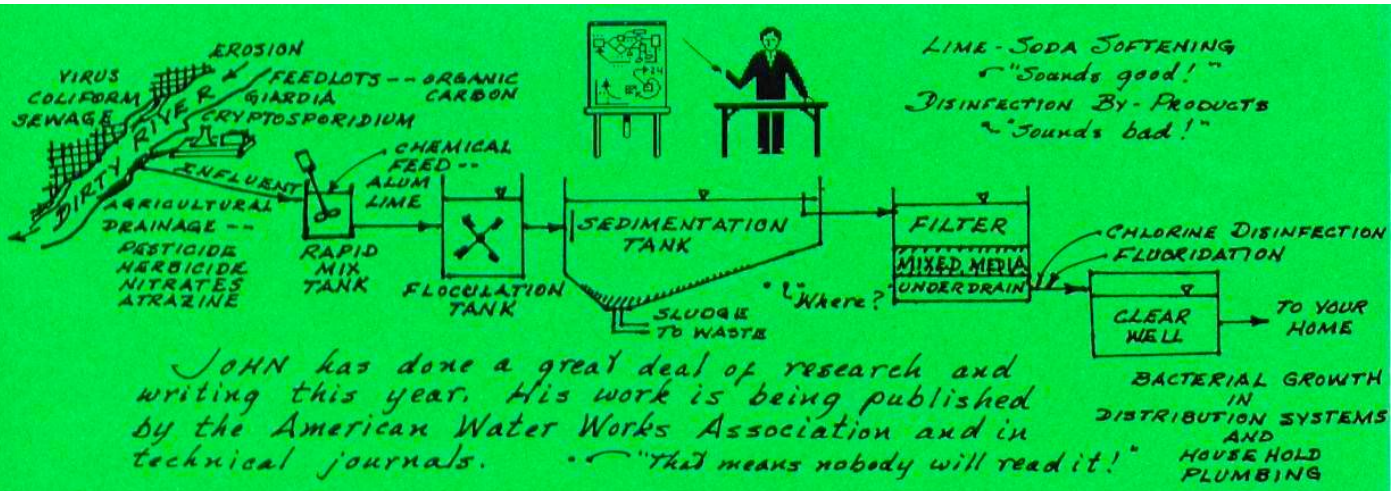
Tom has placed a hiatus on
his unceasing tour of the
midwestern music venues. "It's loud
there!"

I, along with the others, am occupied
deploying decades of accumulated Christmas
memorabilia around the house. "It's cluttered
here!"

We hope you are also enjoying
tranquility, good health, family and friends.
These are life's most precious

NOEL





JOHN has done a great deal of research and writing this year. His work is being published by the American Water Works Association and in technical journals.

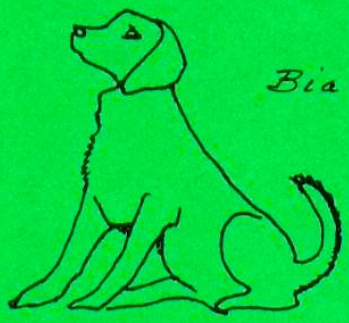
"That means nobody will read it!"



HEATHER has addressed broader environmental concerns both in MONTANA'S NICHE DEFORESTATION CONSERVATION PRESERVATION SUSTAINABILITY ECOLOGY MOUNTAINS and on ILLINOIS' PRAIRIES. SOIL LOSS PRODUCTIVITY CLIMATE

HEATHER brought with her from Montana, an adorable Black Labrador mix puppy which is assiduously working on training us as we are on training him.

"Obedience classes begin Jan. 28"



Bia!

GIGS:
St. Louis Joplin Fayetteville
Columbia
Kansas City
Dallas/Fort Worth
Austin
Houston
Little Rock
Omaha Lincoln
Des Moines Fulton Wichita Sioux City
Terra Haute Springfield Carbondale



"$2000 for an engine? We gotta sell more discs!"

SPANKIN' RUFUS' BUS is still running.... It remains filled with six hard-working musicians and their impedimenta.

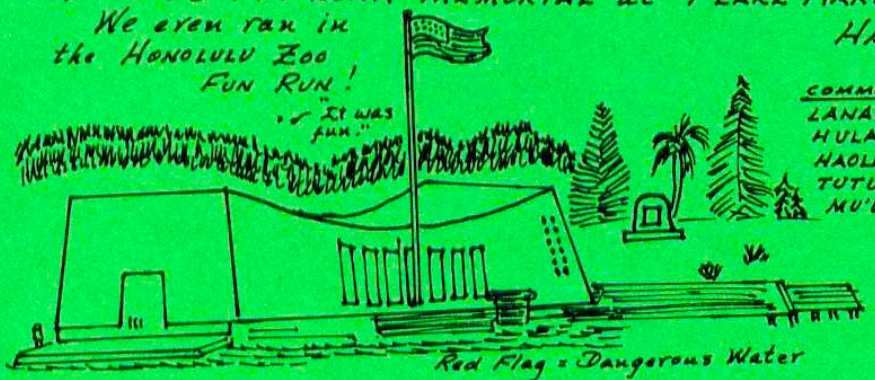
The band is working on its second compact disc and bus engine.

TOM hopes the next CD will buy a new bus.



Last January, I enjoyed a trip to HAWAII "the Aloha State!" #50! with three of my girl friends. We toured OAHU, WAIKIKI BEACH, the USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL at PEARL HARBOR, DIAMOND HEAD and HANAUMA BAY.

We even ran in the HONOLULU ZOO FUN RUN! "It was fun!"

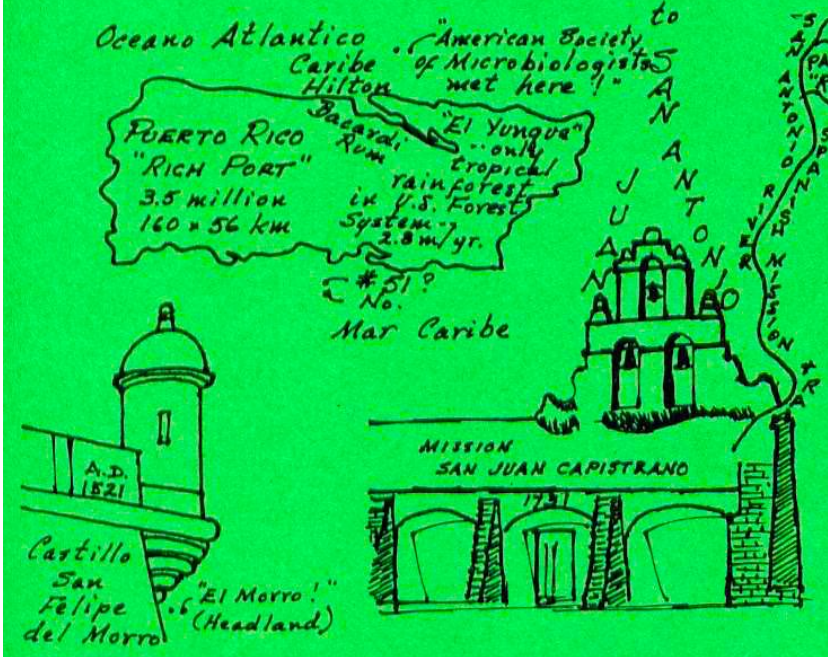


Red Flag = Dangerous Water

COMMONLY USED HAWAIIAN WORDS:
LANAI (veranda) LUAU, LEI, POI, HULA, KAHUNA (expert) KANE (man) HAOLE (Honky) WAHINI (woman) TUTU (Grandmother) KAPU (taboo) MU'UMU'U (loose fitting gown).

FLORA: Hawaiian Ginger Lokelani, Hibiscus, Bougainvillea, Oleander, Bird of Paradise, Banana, Plumeria/Frangipani, Sugar Cane Poinsettia, Pineapple, Ferns...

In April and June, respectively, I accompanied John to SAN ANTONIO



NATURAL BRIDGE CAVERNS
NEW BRAUNFELS .. Springs, Sausages, Schlitterbahn (Slippery Road).

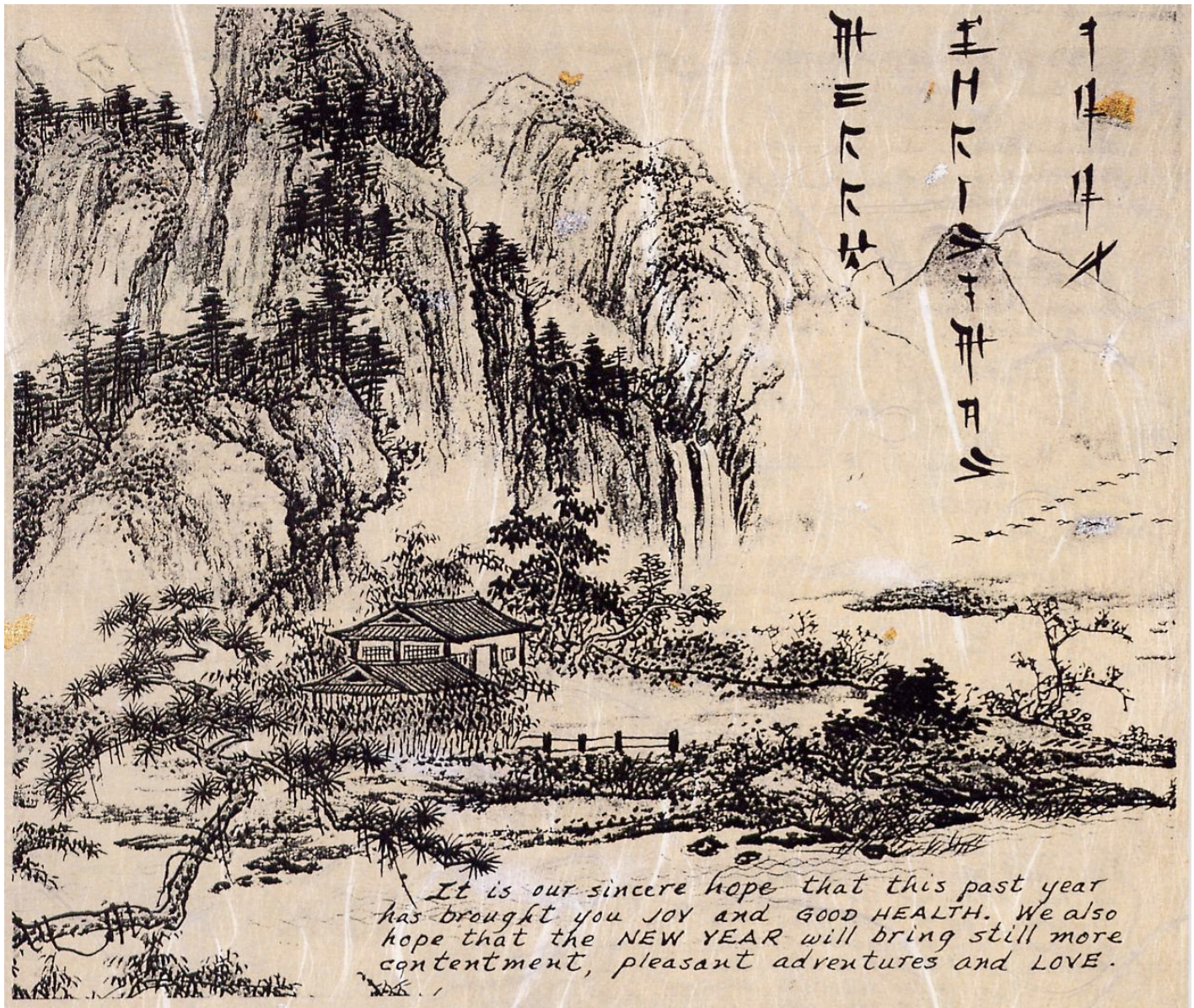


AWWA Annual Conference and Exhibition - 1993

--on the 13th day, all was lost.
--what were they fighting about?
--I don't remember...



One of the joys of being back in Illinois is being close to Mom and Dad in Batavia where we spent a few days at Christmas.



It is our sincere hope that this past year has brought you JOY and GOOD HEALTH. We also hope that the NEW YEAR will bring still more contentment, pleasant adventures and LOVE.

This year has brought both happiness and sadness to our family. In October, at age 85, my father died at home in Batavia, Illinois. His memorial brought friends and family together to celebrate his life.

Mother has adjusted to the loss and continues to be very active in the community and with her many friends.



They were married 59 years!

Heather was born on his 60th birthday.

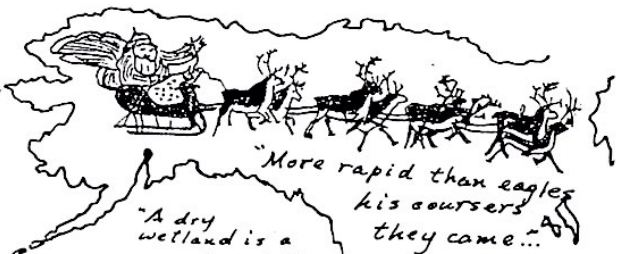
and they lived in Batavia the whole time.

Also, he lived in every decade of this century.

Tom's fiancé, ANDREA, has been teaching english (U.S. version) in Uijongbu-Si, South Korea. In September, Tom rendezvoused with Andrea in Korea.

Together, they flew to remote Boracay (Philippines) for a vacation.





"A dry wetland is a desert!"

JOHN was invited to present a series of lectures on wetlands and sanitary landfills in Taiwan. He insists he learned more than he taught.

ASCE - Env. Engr. Conf. Boolder, Colorado
"Water distribution systems are all wet!"

TAIWAN (REPUBLIC OF CHINA):
400 km. long x 140 km wide
36 million square kilometers
Mountainous, 70%; Plain 30%
Warm (avg 22°C.); Wet (2500 mm/yr)

POPULATION:
20.5 million (52% male; 67% urban)
Density (Taipei): >25,000/km²
10 million pigs (Pollut. Eq. = 5 people)

ECONOMY:
95,327 Factories (3 Fact./km²)
Growth/Year: GNP, 8%; Export, 13%; Industrial, 8.2%; Electricity, 9%.
Unemployment, 1.5%

ENERGY:
Nuclear (28%); Coal, Gas, Oil (95% imported). Industrial Use (51.4%).

300,000 cars per year to dispose of?
-- and 60,000 motorcycles.

ENVIRONMENT:
Birth Rate, 16%; Death Rate, 5%
Solid Waste 1.2 million tons/yr. 6% (13%/year)
Motor Vehicles, 13 million; 6000/km²
Air Quality, 16% "unhealthy days".
Noise Complaints, 14,306 (20/million).
Factories (70%), Parks (15%)
Rivers, 25% Polluted or Badly Polluted
Drinking Water: 35% unacceptable.
Fish Farming (Green Oysters, 1986).
Marine (Harbors), Oil/Grease, 1ppm. Metals, Nitrates, Radionuclides, low O2.
Agric. Crop Damage (Irrigation)
Industrial Accidents: 125 explosions, 67 fires, 102 leaks.

HEATHER joined us on a trip to San Juan as John addressed the "Primer Semanario sobre Reglamentación Aplicable a Sistemas de Agua Potable en PUERTO RICO." Olo!

After the Seminario, we were spirited to a scenic fishing village.

Parguera

Phosphorescent Bay "It glows!"

We had a weekend of swimming and boating through the mangroves.

El Yunque

"It isn't raining rain, you know."
"It isn't?"



MINI-TRI



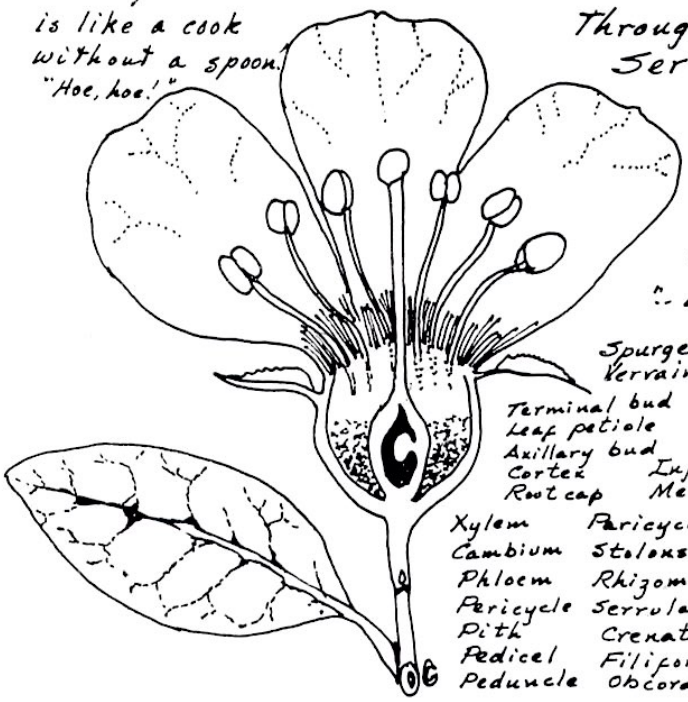
John and I participated in our second mini-triathlon this summer. The pregnant lady didn't outswim John this year. "She's not pregnant anymore!"

We also ran in the Jingle Bell Run for the Arthritis Foundation benefit. We both won trophies in our age classifications. It appears that arthritis and lumbago may have taken their toll on our contemporaries.

At work, John began a year-long celebration.

1895 - 1995 In celebration of our centennial • 1895 - 1995 In celebration of our centennial •
Illinois State WATER SURVEY

"A gardener without a rake is like a cook without a spoon."
"Hoe, hoe!"



Through the County Cooperative Extension Service this year, I studied to become a

MASTER GARDENER

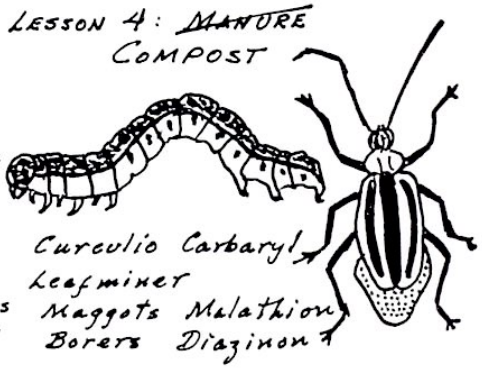
I am required to give 60 hours of public service for the training.
:- and she didn't even have to commit a crime!

Spurge
Vervain
Terminal bud
Leaf petiole
Axillary bud
Cortex
Root cap
Xylem
Cambium
Phloem
Pericycle
Pith
Pedicel
Peduncle

Brome
Dock
Henbit
Kochia
Mallow
Inflorescence
Meristematic
Pericycle
Stolons
Rhizome
Serrulate
Crenate
Filiform
Obcordate

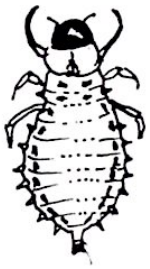
Pinnate
Earwigs
Aphids
Galls
Sawflies
Mites
Scab

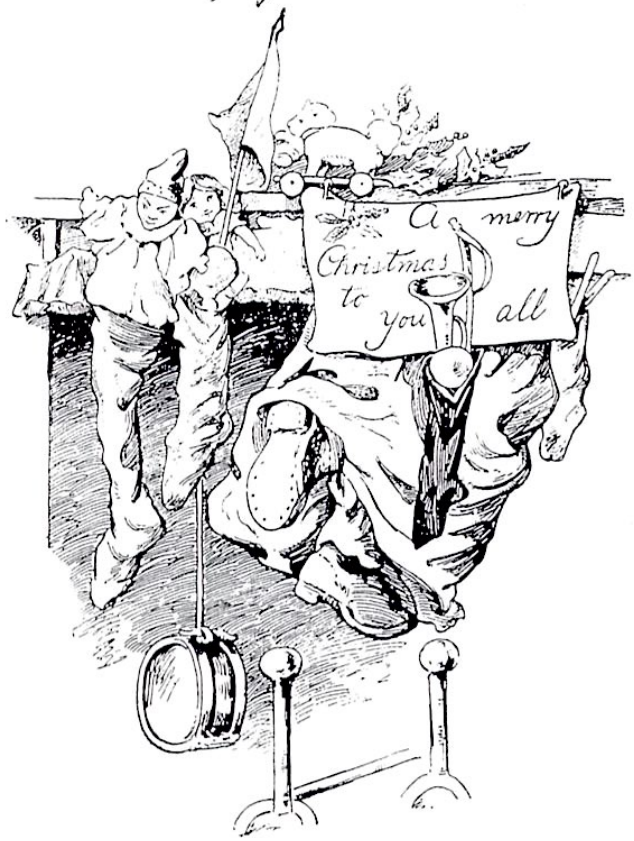
LESSON 4: ~~MANURE~~ COMPOST

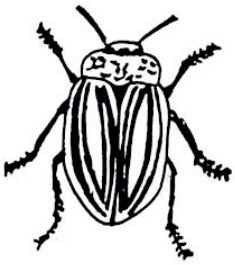


Curculio
Carbaryl
Leafminer
Maggots
Malathion
Borers
Diazinon

Pests and weeds notwithstanding, we look forward toward earth's renewed of life. We hope you will harvest a rich bounty of happiness this coming year.









MERRY CHRISTMAS

Volume 30

We hope you have enjoyed the gift of another year of peace, health and contentment among family and dearest friends.







In May on a	I joined two girlfriends trip to GREECE.
We rendezvoused	with Greek-speaking
Classics We	Scholars in Athens on sabbatical! enjoyed the beautiful AEGEAN
-- from hilltop vistas stretching across the plains,	
-- from the waters edge at sunset,	
-- from the deck of a ferry gliding on its unruffled surface	
and during our opportunistic dips off secluded beaches.	

We learned that early Olympians (male only) competed in the buff -- to dispel doubt over their gender....

• "They propose to revive the tradition in Atlanta."

MENU:

Souvlaki
Moussaka
Tzatiki
Feta
Baklava
Ouzo

"6800 Drachmas for gasoline?"

Καλά Χριστούγεννα!
(Happy Christmas)

Miller Brewing Company, creators of



are sponsoring Spankin' Rufus as their midwestern band.

Tommy's musical crew continue to create original music for gigs from Colorado to Indiana; Texas to Iowa & Illinois.

(Their "Rufus News & World Report" is one of the funniest newsletters in the country.)



HEATHER

enjoyed a wonderful summer, assisting (driving bus) for 150 (noisy) kids in the 1995 YMCA SUMMER DAY CAMP.

They took dozens of trips to educational & recreational areas:

ROCKOME GARDENS - ARCOLA (NATURE TRAILS, PARKS)
AMISH COUNTRYSIDE (PLAYGROUNDS, BOWLING, PUTT-PUTT GOLF)
LAKE OF THE WOODS - MAHOMET
LINCOLN'S BOYHOOD HOME - NEW SALEM
CHANUTE AIR FORCE BASE - RANTOUL
CHILDREN'S ZOO - DECATUR
FOOTBALL STADIUM; ASSEMBLY HALL

"... didn't know there was so much to see in Central Illinois!"

JOHN

presented seminars throughout Illinois as part of the Water Survey CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

He also went to Las Vegas for a USEPA research grant review.



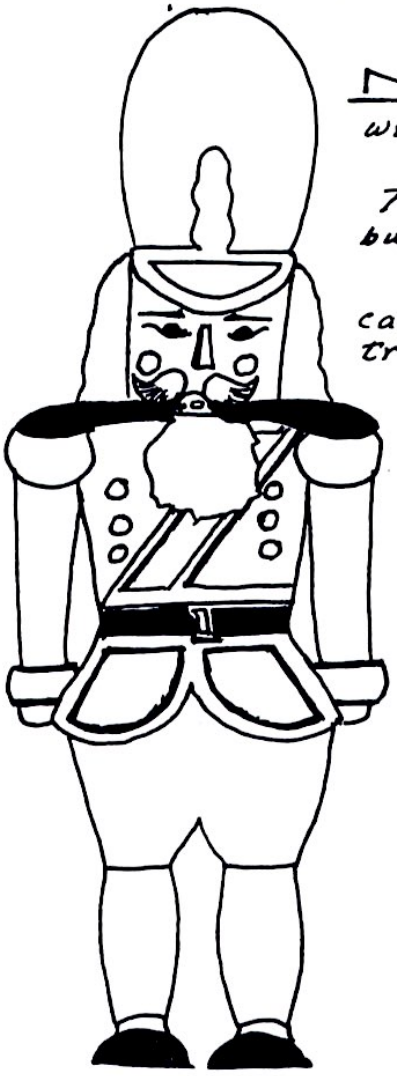
NEXT CHRISTMAS

we plan to be sending our letter from:
806 LEAWOOD TERRACE COLUMBIA, MO.

Tom and Andrea have kept our homefires burning during our stay in Illinois.

John plans to embark on a consulting career specializing in municipal drinking water treatment.

$H_2O'C$, Limited



We hope that 1996 will bring you peace, joy, good health and the comfort of good friends and family!

the O'Connors

"--and a Happy Christmas to us all!"

As we look towards the holidays and the New Year, we recount the new paths we have explored and hope that the passages of the year past have led you and your loved ones to new oases filled with everlasting Friendship, Happiness, Beauty and Love.

31 1966 - 1996

Christmas Greetings

This year, the O'Connors have enjoyed a wonderful year of **transition.** *"--follow the yellow brick road!"*

John *pursued his never-ending quest for drinking water sources to purify.*



Heather embarked
On the study of
hoRticulture at
The University of
Illinois,
Champaign
Urbana.
bioLogy
Trees
frUits and vegetables
gReenhouse management
Economics

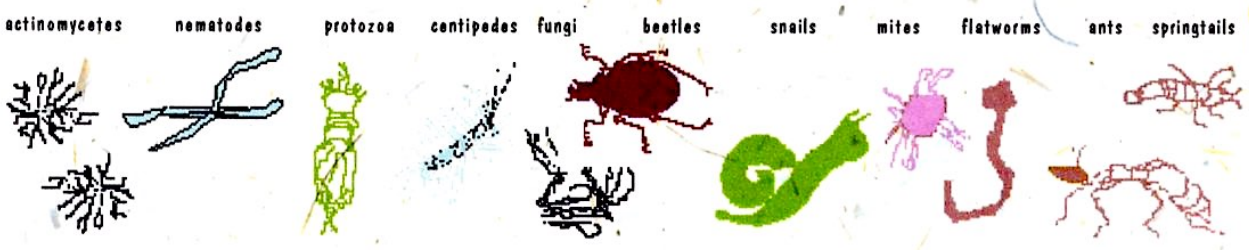
Rufusbus for Sale!
Needs New Engine!
Contact Tommy O



dISbANdEAd
Spankin' Rufus
and now works as an environmental engineer, desktop publisher and music composer.

I continue to tiptoe through the tulips with **Master Gardeners** and the political minefield with the **League of Women Voters.**

Since participating in a **Master Composter** series at the County Cooperative Extension Unit, I count among my friends:



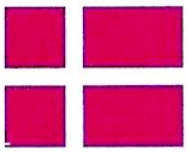
New Gigs

Willmar, MN - Copper Corrosion in Household Plumbing

North Central Missouri Streams - Impact of Large-Scale Livestock Production Facilities (MegaHog Farms)

Morton, IL - Biological Growth in Caterpillar Plant Distribution System

Cameron, MO- Effect of Agricultural Drainage on Lake Water Supply (nitrate, atrazine).



Dannebrog, the Danish Flag, is believed to be the oldest flag in the world!

July 17, 1996, the day of Chicago's record flood as well as the crash of TWA Flight 800, found the ***'five biking babes'*** en route to a rendezvous in

Copenhagen, Denmark

Karen Novak, living in Åalborg, was hostess, interpreter and tour guide. Our two weeks of cycling the lovely Danish countryside were wonderful, and, by comparison with world events,

peaceful, harmonious, placid and uneventful.



The Danish Countryside

Åalborg	University of Åalborg
Lim Fjorden	Wind Turbines
København	Tivoli Gardens Glyptotek (Rodin) Sailing ships at Nyhavn wharf, --a canal dug in the 1600's.
Roskilde	Viking Ship Museum
Ærøskøbing	Windmills; half-timbered houses with thatched roofs
Ribe	Denmark's oldest city (2,000 years); Stork nests atop chimneys
Skågen	Tiled roofs; Baltic Sea (Kattegat) & North Sea (Skaggerak) meet
Køldinghus	15th Century Castle
Kroners	Bicycle Paths

Royal Copenhaven Porcelain
Hans Christian Andersen Museum
White Churches with Cemeteries in Churchyard

Magrethe II -- world's youngest queen; world's oldest monarchy.

We visited Bob and Bonnie, my brother and sister-in-law, last April while John was attending a copper corrosion conference in Boston. They reciprocated by visiting us in Champaign in August as part of their annual pilgrimage to the Midwest to visit the family and enjoy the Lake of the Ozarks.

We made numerous trips to Batavia during the year to visit my mother. At 81, she continues to be vital, active socially and continually involved with volunteer activities.

With each passing year, we increasingly treasure the time spent with family and old friends.

Class of '56 -- Batavia High School

Who were those old folks we partied with in late September? Alumni? Where did they come from? What was the function of that derelict building that is about to be razed to make room for progress? We were delighted to be among those who reminisced at the BHS 40th Class Reunion! Go Bulldogs!

Puerto Rico



John's invitation to speak in April in San Juan was all the excuse we needed to schedule a family vacation in **Puerto Rico.** After all the talking, we boated through the dense mangroves and trekked **El Yunque,** the US Forest Service's only tropical rainforest.



¿Que Pasa?
La Parguera
Old San Juan
Spanish Fortresses
Bacardi Rum Factory
Bay of Phosphorescence
bioluminescent dinoflagellates

As ever, we hope that the New Year will bring you and your family health, happiness, contentment, and the wonderful joys of everyday life.



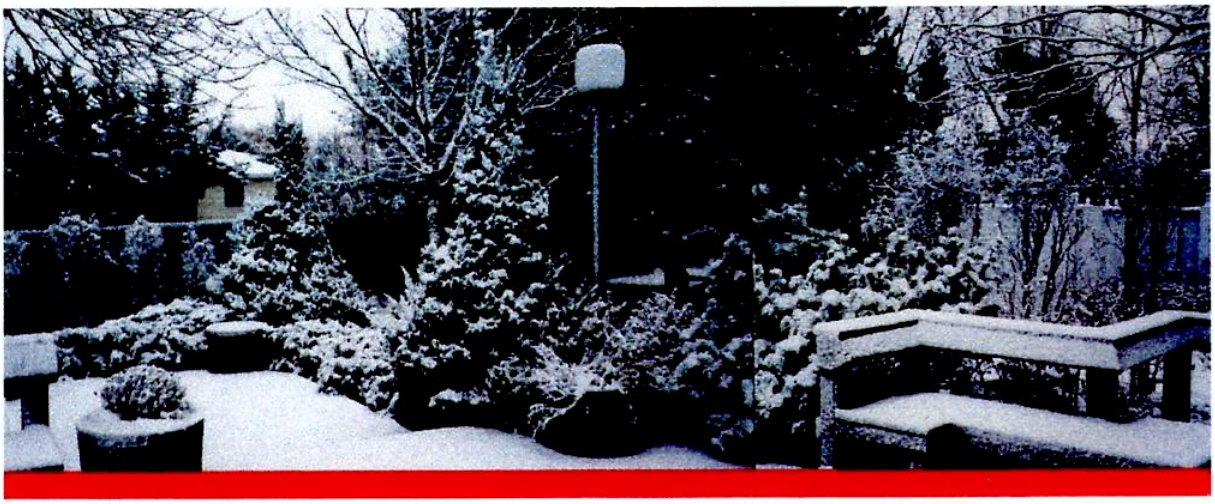


2118 Robert Drive, Champaign, IL 61821-6535 tel/fax: 217-359-2719 h2oconnor@aol.com

Merry Christmas

1997

We hope the year past has been a time of peace, good health and happiness shared with family and friends. May the New Year bring you even closer to the places and people who bring the greatest happiness to your life.



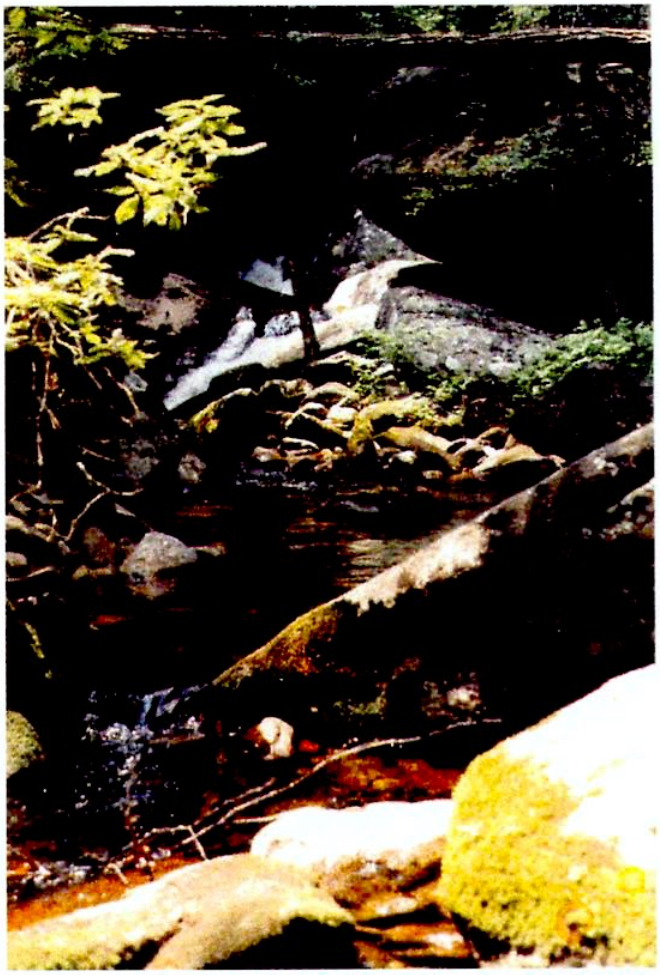


This past summer, John and I seized the opportunity to attend a lovely wedding in the picturesque Louisiana town of Natchidoches.

This provided the impetus for visits to friends in the Southeastern United States.

We visited Shreveport, Vicksburg, Birmingham, Georgia's Callaway Gardens and FDR's summer home at Warm Springs.

We also hiked with friends in the incomparably beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.



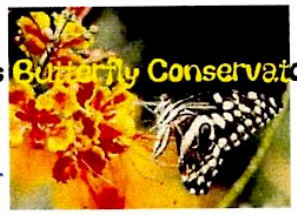
Harper Creek Trail, Blue Ridge Mountains, North Carolina
Photo by Carol Lane

Tour of Southeastern United States

Blue Ridge Mountains: Rhododendron **NC**

Callaway Gardens Butterfly Conservatory **GA**

'We estimate that 1 kilogram of butterflies excrete 95 grams of droppings per day!'
Butterfly Sanitary Engineer



Birmingham, Vulcan **AL**

'Today we should visit the Boll Weevil monument, the Coon Dog Graveyard, Hank William's memorial and Museum, and the U.S. Army Military Police Corps Regimental Museum?'
'Maybe it's time to go to Callaway Gardens!'

MS **Vicksburg Battlefield, Natchez Trace**

'Do cotton balls really get rotten?'

'Whom-all may I say is calling?'



"Steve, Do You take Shauna..

LA **Pecans, Plantations, Crawdads, Newlyweds**

Yankees pronounce it 'pea cans'!

'Have you tasted our Crawmoms?'



Illinois	Agricultural Chemicals
Missouri	Large-Scale Livestock Production Facilities (Megahog Farms)
Minnesota	Chickens, Turkeys

Tom and John evaluated water treatment plant performance in the Midwest. They also assessed the effect on stream water quality of raising pigs in Missouri. *'..these little piggies go to market!'*

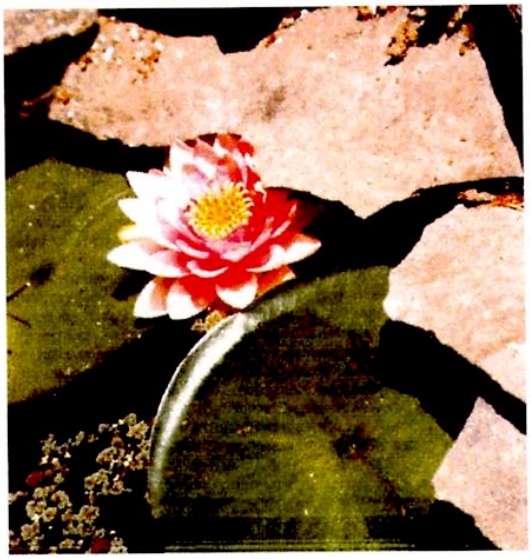
"We have discovered that all water is the same, it is only the stuff in it that is different!" *H2Omily*

Heather was awarded a horticulture internship at the Berry Botanic Garden, Portland, Oregon.

She spent the summer digging, hoeing, mowing, learning about and enjoying the Pacific Northwest, a horticultural mecca.

Heather hopes to complete her BS in Horticulture at the University of Illinois this May. She would like to work on the restoration of ecologically-damaged land (phytoremediation).

Heather was invited to detail her experience for the Berry Botanic Garden newsletter. She had created a database of rhododendron species and studied *Sysrinchium sarmentosum*, a pale, blue-eyed grass. *'..but will it grow in industrial waste sludge?'*



Berry Botanic Garden Water Feature–Photo by Heather

District of Columbia

On Halloween, I accompanied John on one his trips to Washington, D.C. We visited the Smithsonian Institutes and the new FDR Memorial.

"It was a dark and stormy night.."

John struggled with reviews for USEPA research grants and Fulbright Awards while I struggled with finding my way through museum shops.

'This is a dark and stormy proposal..'

"Do you take 'Discover'?"

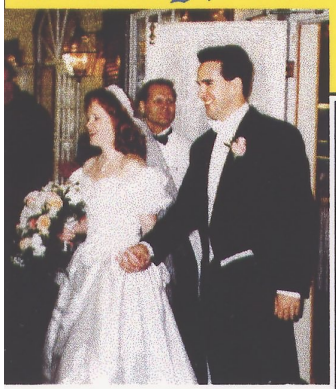
"Can members go up in the tower?"

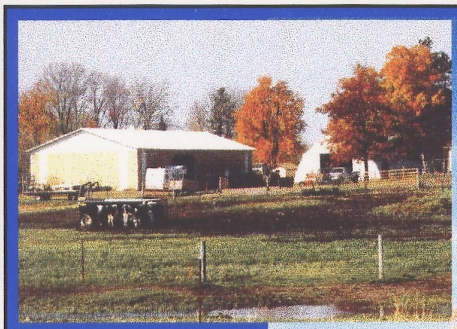
"The National Zoological Park is part of the Smithsonian!"

John also introduced me to historic old Alexandria, Va which is being lovingly restored.

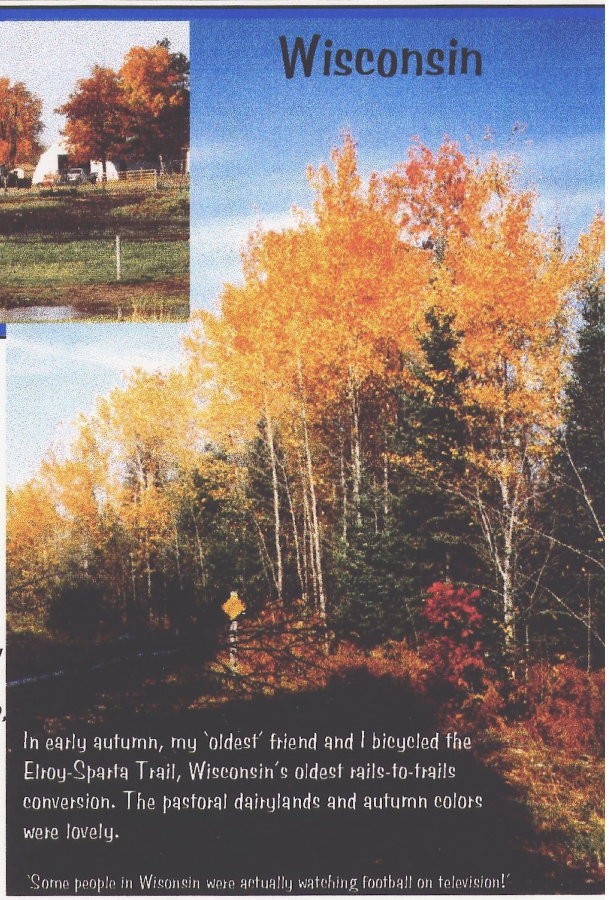
Wedding Bells

also rang for our niece, Susie. Mother and I travelled to Massachusetts to enjoy the festivities surrounding the nuptials. Susie is the first of my parents grandchildren to be married. "We're a small family!"





Wisconsin



In early autumn, my 'oldest' friend and I bicycled the Elroy-Sparta Trail, Wisconsin's oldest rails-to-trails conversion. The pastoral dairylands and autumn colors were lovely.

'Some people in Wisconsin were actually watching football on television!'

Once more, we hope that the *New Year* *will bring you and your family health, happiness, love and contentment.*



Tribute to Franklin Delano Roosevelt
32nd U.S. President, 1933-1945



Happy 1998 Holidays

from the O'Connors at 2401 Tahoe Court, Columbia, MO 65203-1444

Heather graduated from the University of Illinois in May. Then, she was awarded a graduate assistantship in Biology at the University of Missouri-Columbia where her project is a study of the growth rate of poplar trees.

Tom lives in Columbia and works on water treatment and stream monitoring for H_2O'C, Limited. He has become adept at sorting and identifying macroinvertebrates. Besides working on the microscope or computer, he goes fishing and serves on the Board of the Columbia Art League.

This Christmas we hope to move to our new home to live near and work with Heather and Tom. Our biggest problem seems to be where to place our compost pile.

John's library and office continue to expand as new water quality projects and publications develop. He and Tom have just completed two chapters on *microorganisms in water* for a book to be published by an engineering society. They hope this will be useful to others in the field of water treatment since it is unlikely to make the 'best sellers' list.

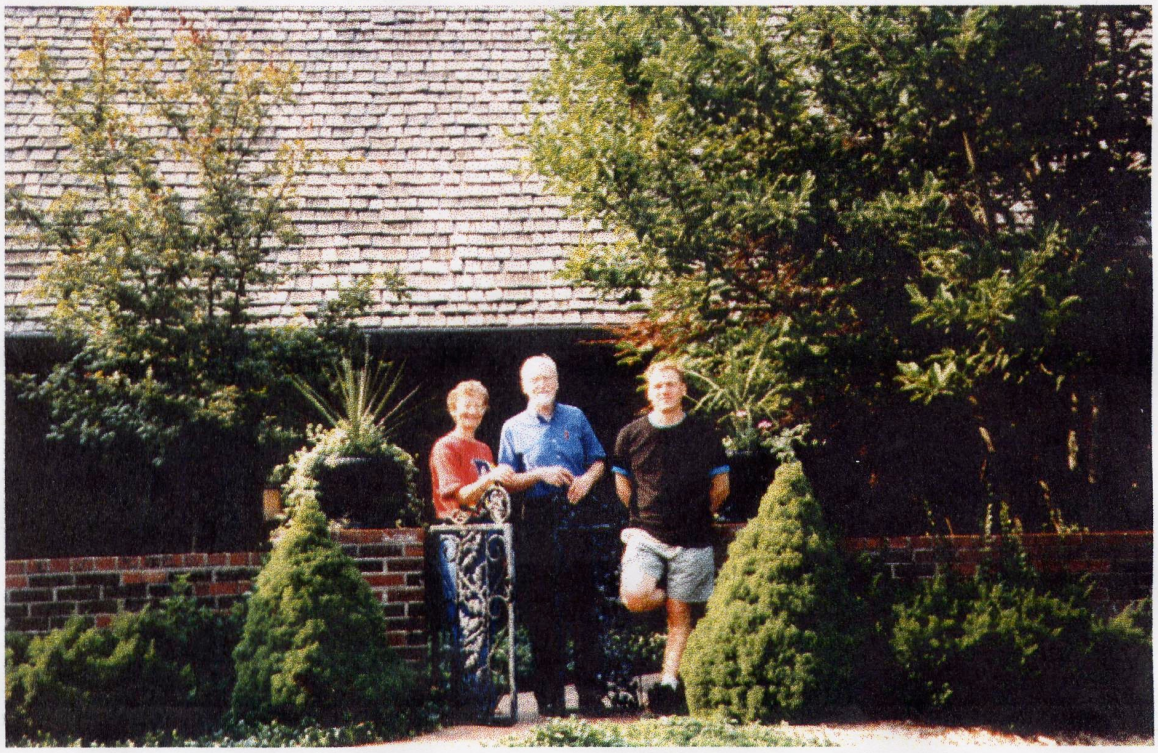
This autumn, to celebrate our collective sixtieth birthdays, eleven Batavia High School classmates rendezvoused for a vacation in Door County, Wisconsin. This was the first time many of us had been together since graduation in 1956.

This was also a year of renewing friendships on trips to North Carolina, Oregon, Chicago and Boston. Between visits, electronic mail helped us sustain contact. Our address will still be *h2oconnor@aol.com.*

As we are in the process of moving, it will be difficult to find time to decorate for Christmas this year. So, please close your eyes and imagine the most pleasant winter scene in your memory. We will see you there.

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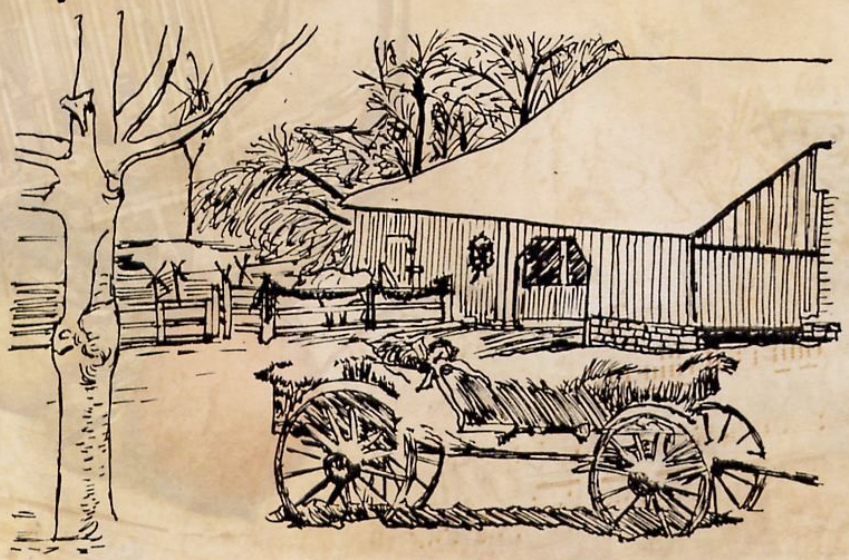
We wish you a Merry Christmas 1999



We hope you have enjoyed a wonderful year of love and joy with family and good friends!

We are together in Columbia after six years in Illinois.

Heather is researching tree growth at the Univ. of Missouri Agroforestry Research Station. She may earn an M.S. if she can convince 1600 Cottonwood trees to grow tall, green, healthy and fast. Measuring root system extension, dry weight and leaf area is part of her routine.



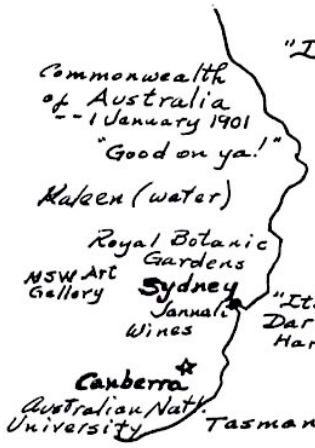
John, Tom and I continue to nurture $H_2O'C$. The boys visit water plants and write reports while I learn to use accounting software.

"-- another computer?"

www.h2oc.com

"What happened to my ledgers?"

The trailhead to the 190-mile Missouri River Trail can be readily reached from our front door. My brother & sister-in-law, Bob and Bonnie, biked and hiked with us during their summer visit from Massachusetts.



Early in 1994, John & I returned to the 'Down Under.' Our Aussie friend, Tracy guided us to the beauty of Sydney, Canberra and the wine country.

Along with 500,000 other partygoers, we saw Sydney's 'famous' Gay & Lesbian Parade.

"I'm both!"
"We're neither!"

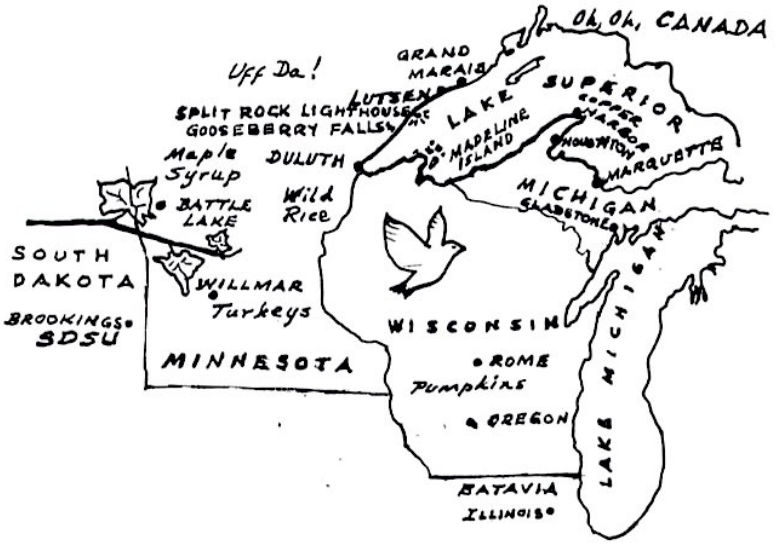
In New Zealand, our friend, Heather, led us on a free-wheeling tour which culminated with the

Wildfoods Festival

at Hokitika on the West coast.

We dined on whitebait patties, Westcargot, eel suski, ostrich, crocodile, paua, and prairie oysters. Monteith's brews helped make it all palatable.





This autumn, John and I traveled to Duluth, Minnesota where John presented a paper.

"Water is wet!"

After his wet words, we toured the shores of Lake Superior.

In Illinois, my mom can be found, on any given day, volunteering at the Batavia Historical Society, maintaining her 125 bowling average, listening to the likes of former Senator Paul Simon reviewing his latest book at 'Books between Bites', lunching with her classmates from BHS Class of '33 or having a chat with her fellow octogenarian sister, Aunt Carrie.

The four of us plus two dogs will join my mother to await Santa in Batavia this year.

We trust Santa will also find you and your loved ones gathered together this year.



Tom is a Columbia Art League volunteer. Here he helps at the Art Fair food tent. Others pictured are customers.





"-- and a Happy New Year!"

2000
1999

We hope the year MM has brought you

Joy, Peace and Good Health

In the New Year, may you again share these with all those who bring happiness into your life.



Again this year, our family has enjoyed a year of adventure and discovery.

I pursue my interests in the LWV, gardening, bicycling with friends and traveling.

H_2O'C takes John & Tom to ever more water and wastewater plants.

"Show us to the sewage treatment water pollution control facility !"

Heather continues to study trees & grasses at Missouri University.

"How green is our valley ?"

Color me Ireland! With girl friends, I hiked and biked the Emerald Isle where we found other John O'Connors.

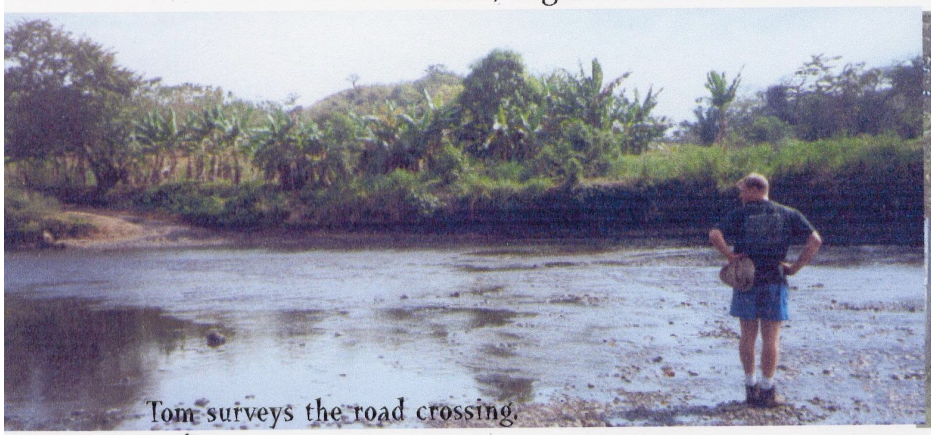


This past year our journeys took us to Costa Rica, Colorado, Ireland and Wisconsin. Conversely, we hosted family and friends from Massachusetts, New Zealand, Virginia and Illinois. We also hope to have my mom visit us this holiday season.

(John and Tom got to visit Sauget, Illinois and Sikeston, Missouri.)

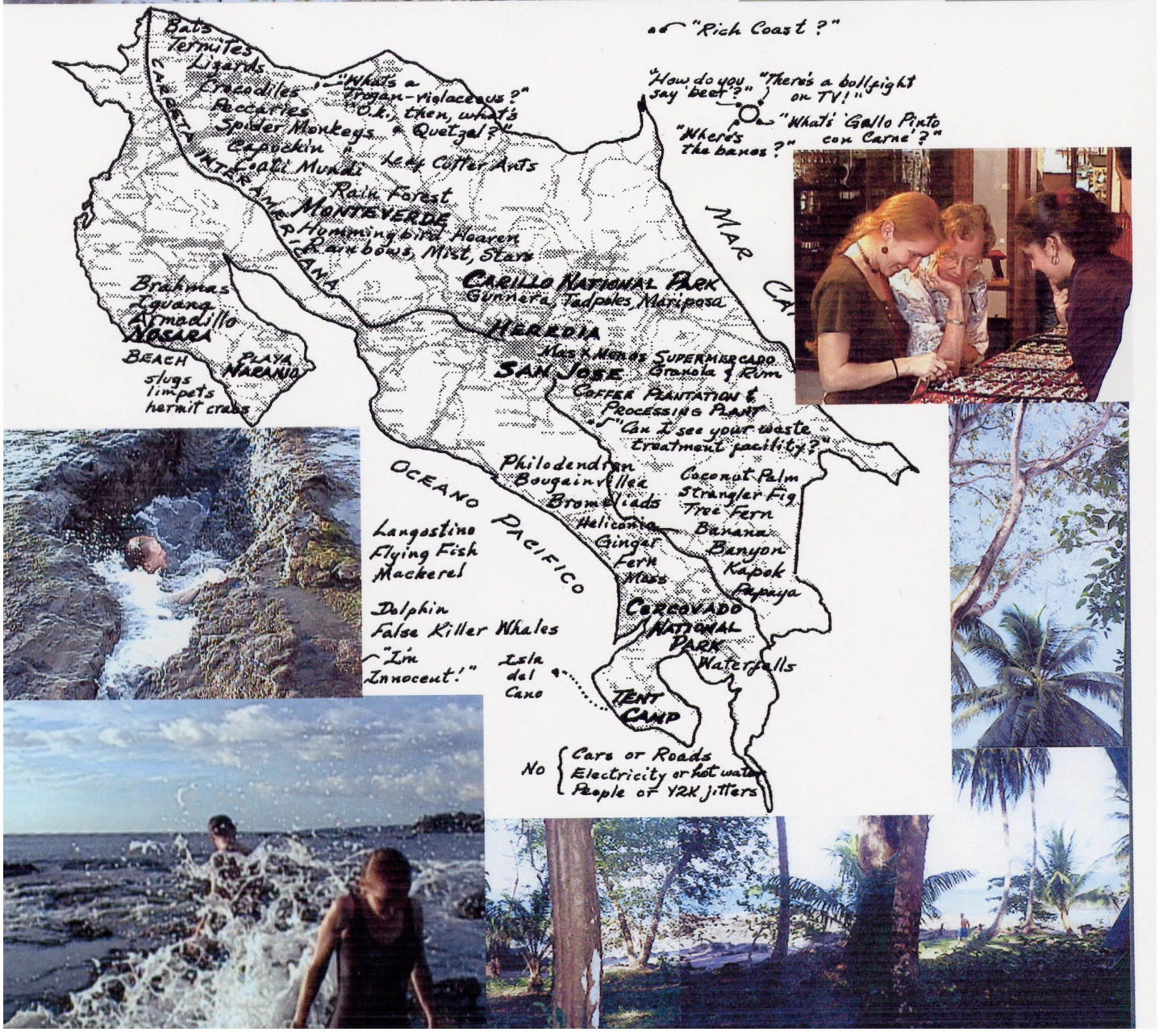
One learns that serving as a host is a fine way to see and learn about one's own home grounds. As guides, we visited Missouri wine country, Hannibal, Mark Twain lake country, the St. Louis Arch, art museums, sculpture gardens, the Missouri Botanical Gardens, Rock Bridge Caves and other delightful local treasures.

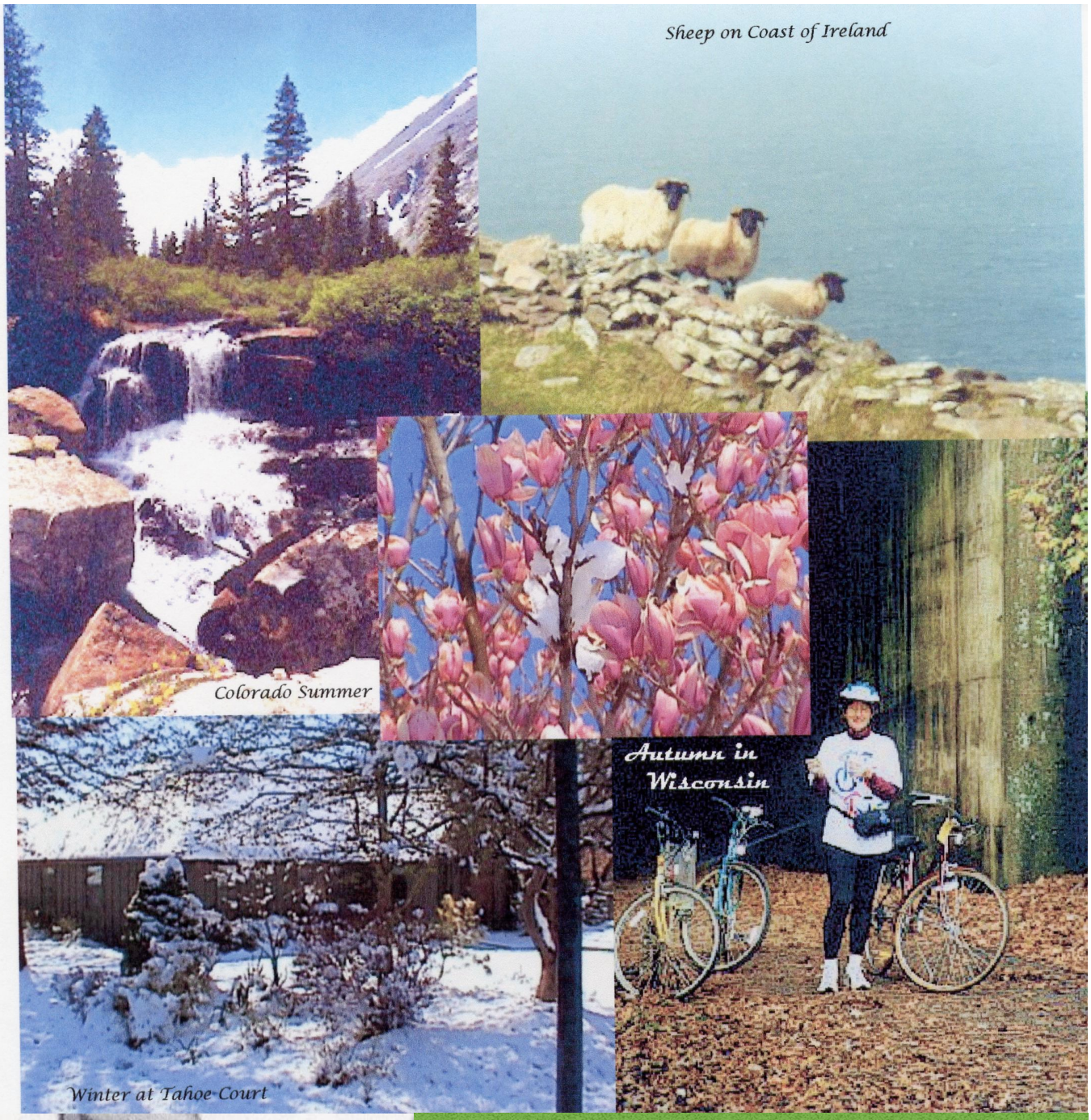
The 4 O'Cs observed the arrival of '00 from tents on a remote Pacific beach.
We lit the night with a bonfire. We had never seen so many stars.
Thus, began our travel adventures in the



Tom surveys the road crossing.







We hope you will relax
and enjoy each day of '01.
Happy New Year!

Merry Christmas 2001

We hope
the New Year
brings You
Good Health,
Contentment,
Happiness,
Peace and
many Joyous
Reunions
with Family
and Friends.









Heather
is still greening the world doing field work on weeds and bugs for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Tom
plays saxophone and guitar with 'Festivus' and serves on the Columbia Art League Board.

John
continues to work with Tom & publish research results on arsenic, copper corrosion, and other arcane subjects.

I work with the League of Women Voters, putter in the garden & bicycle at every opportunity.

Our travels took us to Colorado, Niagara Falls, Cape Cod and Nova Scotia. Business pursuits led John to Puerto Rico and Tom to Texas while the pursuit of happiness led me to bike the 225 mile Missouri River Trail with three friends of long-standing.





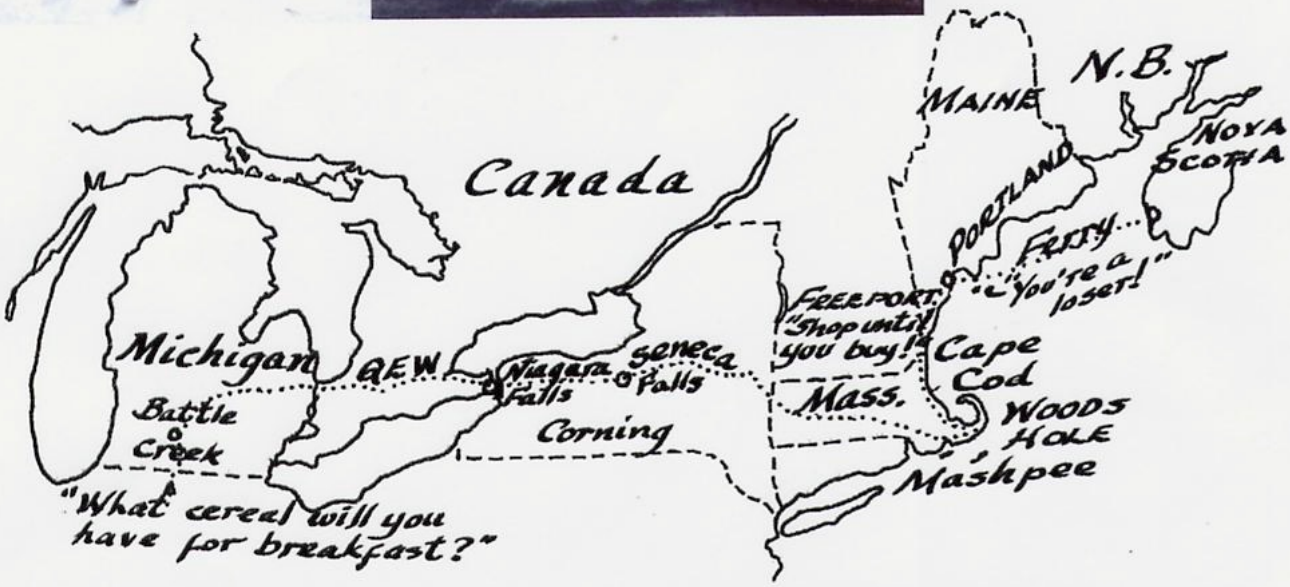
Keystone, Colorado - March, 2001

A young skier gleefully exclaimed,
as she breezed by,
"This is my first time sking!,"
to which John, awkwardly
sprawled on the ground, replied,
"This is my last!"



We set out for **Cape Cod** in August to help my brother, Bob, celebrate both retirement and his 65th birthday. A great party!

We also visited Woods Hole. The marine biological and oceanographic institutes were wonderful!



Women's Rights National Historic Park
Seneca Falls, New York



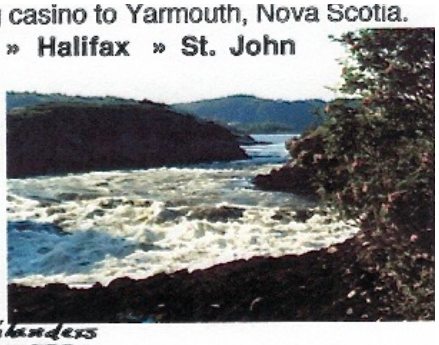
Brother Bob's 65th Birthday Bash
Mashpee, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

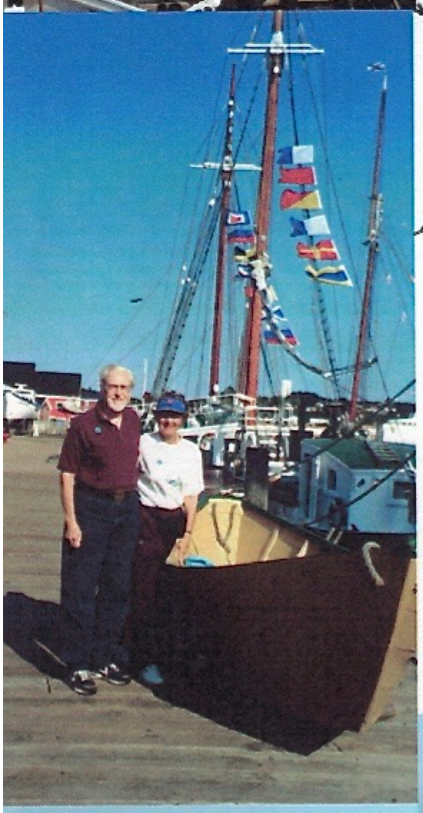


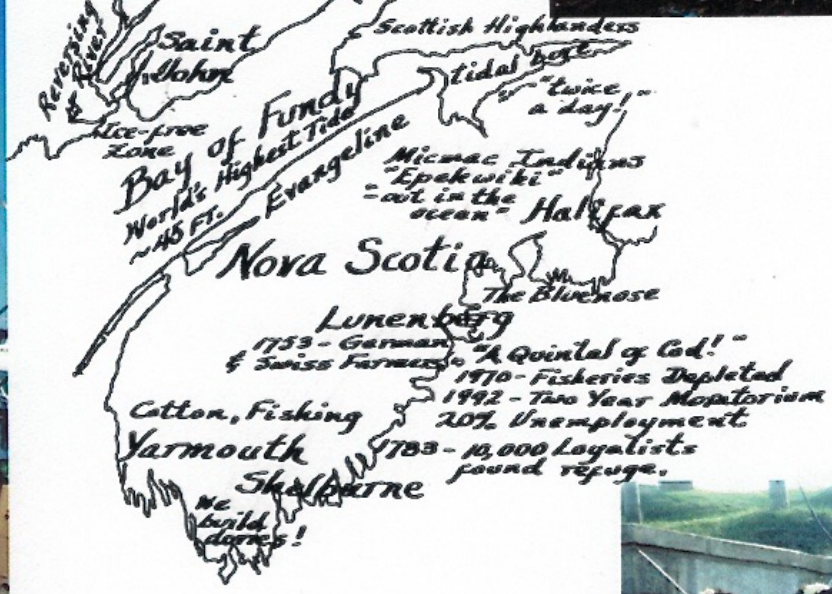
Bob, John, Jay, Dawn, Bonnie, Joane



Portland, Maine via overnight ferry/gambling casino to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.
Shelburne » Riverport » Lunenberg » Halifax » St. John









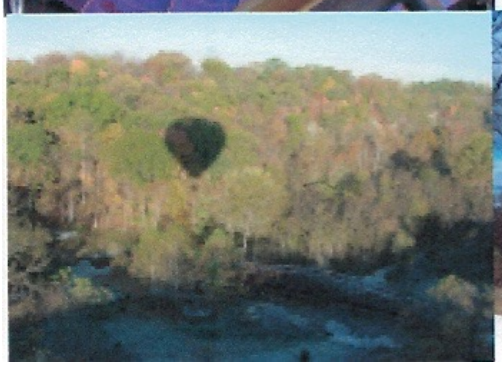






We viewed the transition to Missouri's lovely autumn from the air by balloon and from the ground along bicycle trails.

More than ever, we hope you and your loved ones find peace and happiness throughout the coming year!



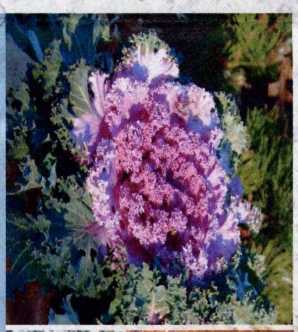


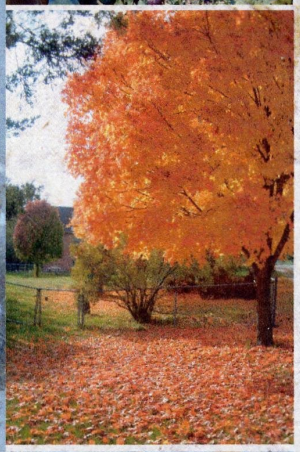


Merry Christmas 2002

We hope you have enjoyed another wonderful year filled with those simple daily pleasures that make life the fantastic adventure that it is!

For us, all remains well in Columbia.



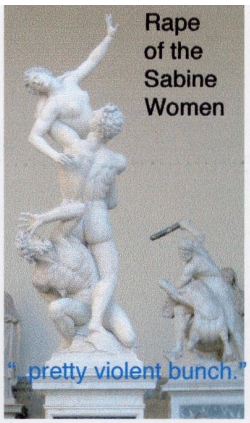


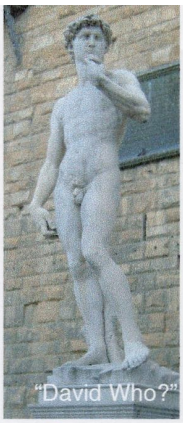


This year, our travels took us to Wyoming, Colorado and Italy. Back home, it was business as usual for John and Tom while Heather worked on prairie restoration. I enjoyed gardening, bicycling and my association with the LWV and other civic groups.

Bicycling in Keystone, Colorado - October, 2002









"Ashcroft is sending 1,000 meter^2 of drapery."



Shopkeepers admonish: 'Don't touch the fruit!'

Grappa?



Drink bottled Chianti!



Fountains in the Piazza del Campo, **Siena**



With our friends, George and Marcia Smith, we took the train to Florence but rented a car for our travels through the beautiful Tuscan countryside.

In Cinque Terre, we rendezvoused with my cousins Larry and Carol - both artists familiar with Italy and its heritage. By chance, we met yet again - in Lucca.



TV antennae, roof gardens, laundry drying, schoolchildren, cats, cats, cats!

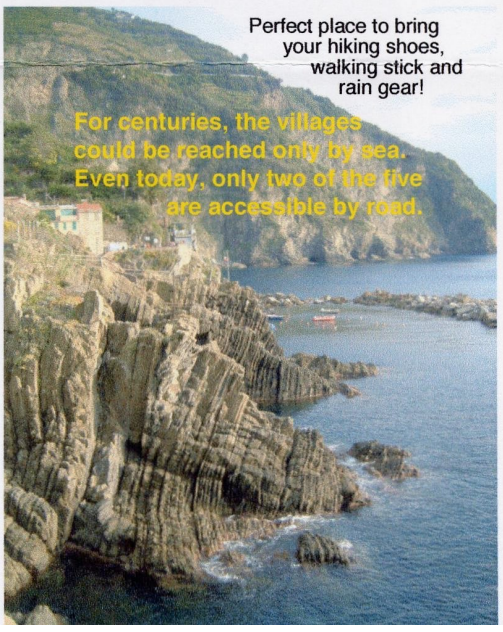
Flower and fish stands, shops,...

Terraced olive groves and vineyards.

Steep, narrow, stone pathways.

Lush vegetation.

All the boats were hauled ashore in anticipation of an incoming storm.



In Other News.....

Happily, travel works both ways. In the summer of 2002, we were the beneficiaries of a visit from Ruby Coleman, a Kiwi friend we met while walking through a secluded forest in New Zealand. Ruby charmed the locals with her proper speech and demeanor, knowledge of horticulture and native wisdom.

In addition, my brother, Bob, and his wife, Bonnie, visited Columbia during their annual trek from Cape Cod to the Midwest. We enjoyed bicycling along the beautiful Missouri River trail.



"...catch any Cod?"



"An Evaluation of Native Species Success in a Savanna Restoration' was the title of the thesis Heather completed for her M.S. in Forestry.

This year, Tom took - and passed - the day-long examination to become a registered professional engineer. He is now E2002003396 and can be sued for malpractice.

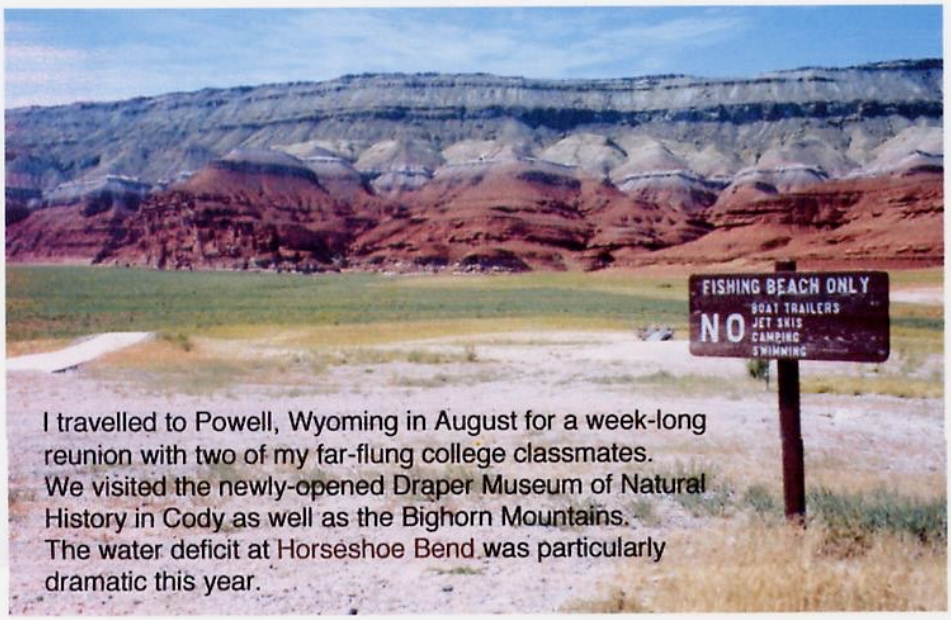
John's major accomplishment for the year was recovering rapidly from surgery for a blocked carotid artery. He now makes regular visits to the pill factory.



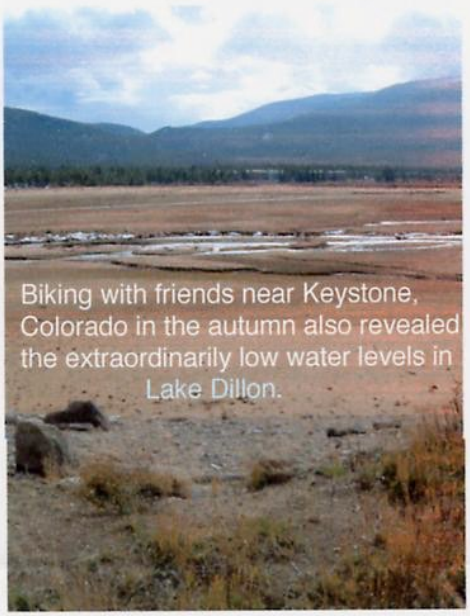
Tom also received the 2002 Warren A. Kramer Award from the Missouri Section, American Water Works Assn. for a technical paper he presented at their annual conference.

Finally, although not a member, Tom has been selected by Rotary International to spend a month in Japan as part of their exchange program.





I travelled to Powell, Wyoming in August for a week-long reunion with two of my far-flung college classmates. We visited the newly-opened Draper Museum of Natural History in Cody as well as the Bighorn Mountains. The water deficit at Horseshoe Bend was particularly dramatic this year.



Biking with friends near Keystone, Colorado in the autumn also revealed the extraordinarily low water levels in Lake Dillon.

In addition to our warmest wishes for this holiday season, we hope the New Year will bring you perfectly formulated allotments of sunshine and rain, warmth and coolth, love, good health and...

Peace

CHRISTMAS 2003

HAPPY NINETIETH, CARRIE!

We capitalized on Aunt Carrie's 90th birthday - and Thanksgiving - to bring the Hainish/Lippold/Clever/O'Connor clan together for a family celebration. (From left: Joni. John. Heather. Carol, Larry, Carrie, Tom. Agnes)



We hope you enjoyed another year of peace and happiness surrounded by those you love and that the New Year will bring you, your family and our world still more tranquility and comfort.

There are those among us who are very fond of 'findaword' puzzles. See how many holiday words you can find on the grid we created.

...do you have to know how to spell?



Brother, Bob, with his sister.

S	A	G	E	S	S	A	N	T	A	O	N	I	C	I	C	L	E	S	T
N	H	A	W	I	N	T	E	R	F	M	A	N	G	E	R	L	M	T	S
O	R	O	3	G	Q	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	S	E	U	D	O	O
W	B	M	E	N	L	H	J	I	G	R	I	N	C	H	C	B	A	C	H
F	R	L	S	E	E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	Y	H	A	R	K	P
V	I	O	I	X	E	G	G	O	D	A	N	C	E	R	E	Y	V	I	S
C	R	G	W	X	A	F	O	A	G	T	M	E	T	K	U	P	I	N	E
7	H	L	A	M	E	C	L	D	M	E	R	R	Y	J	F	R	V	G	K
S	U	P	M	A	C	N	D	H	P	E	S	O	J	E	R	A	T	S	P
C	H	R	I	S	T	I	N	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	D	A	Y
R	I	A	P	E	G	G	A	H	8	C	T	E	R	M	N	A	V	E	R
O	A	N	H	J	W	H	I	I	C	H	Q	M	3	A	K	I	M	B	L
O	N	C	O	M	E	T	T	M	A	R	I	A	U	N	I	N	O	E	L
G	H	E	L	A	L	B	T	E	R	M	L	R	X	U	N	T	O	Y	W
E	O	R	L	R	E	M	E	S	O	C	B	Y	K	A	C	N	O	G	B
E	L	U	Y	Y	D	F	S	X	L	R	G	M	A	L	E	I	U	H	A
V	I	N	D	F	I	R	N	C	S	H	E	E	P	H	N	C	6	O	L
N	D	A	N	C	E	R	I	G	N	O	V	E	N	A	S	K	U	S	S
L	A	M	B	E	R	G	O	S	F	I	E	L	D	S	E	V	E	T	A
M	Y	R	R	H	D	1	P	Z	Y	C	C	H	P	L	O	D	U	R	M

View our answer at www.h2oc.com or e-mail us at joni@h2oc.com

© 2003 G















In the spring, Tom toured Japan as part of a Rotary International exchange program. In addition to sampling Japanese family life and hospitality, his group visited temples, shrines, schools, hospitals, research labs and manufacturing facilities.



Tom also managed to squeeze in tours of water and wastewater facilities, including the revolutionary Toto toilet.





"On a clear day..."

This enormous wastewater plant was constructed on an artificial island in the middle of a (formerly) highly polluted lake. Despite the heroic effort, it is now just a polluted lake.





The kids learn some English; "poop" was lettered on the blackboard.

Manhole covers (inlaid) have become an art form in some regions.







I bicycled, recycled, balanced the LWV checkbook, practiced Pilates and performed numerous acts of domestic bedizening.

I also frolicked with H.S. friends at a reunion in Galena, IL

• • bedizening? frolicking? ...you'd have to see it!





In the autumn, I joined friends to ride the beautiful New River Trail near Blacksburg, VA

• • What's 'new' about this 'ol river?



Having bicycled to the Hartsburg Pumpkin Festival, Missouri Governor Bob Holden chats with Mayor Nancy Grant and an unidentified Missouri taxpayer.

• • How does a town of 103 get 25,000 people to come to a Pumpkin Festival? ...maybe they came to see if the Governor could ride a bike?

• • she certainly uses lots of long Latin words...

Heather worked to identify seeds, weeds, and grasses on Missouri's native Paintbrush Prairie.





John and Tom continue their water work; removing bacteria, radium, methane, arsenic, ammonia, chlorinated organic matter, sulfide, hardness and other stuff from drinking waters.

• • We don't want no stuff in our water!



As President of the Columbia Art League, Tom handed out checks to award-winning artists.

• • ...looks like she's going for the check!

In 2004, we hope you, your family, dear friends and our entire world will find happiness, love, and true peace!



May the New Year bring **Peace** to you, your loved ones and the world!





Corps of Discovery mania reigned as a reenactment crew retraced the oar strokes of 1804 up the Missouri River which is a lovely bicycle ride from our front door. The Meriwether Lewis and William Clark expedition crew included 27 men, one woman and a Newfoundland retriever, Seaman.

200 years later, we are still travelling and discovering the world around us.

© 2004 Howard Desig

Heather, hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park, discovered that a backpack increases in weight with elevation and time of day.

Heather also received a Sustainable Agriculture Research grant to embark on a journey to explore optimal ginseng production in Missouri forests

Considering its taste, Ginseng Tea must really be good for you!



Tom, on a month-long Rotary Study Exchange to India, discovered that, if a sacred cow is dozing in front of the town's telephone booth, one shouldn't disturb it merely to make a call.

Can you hear me moo?

Home in Missouri, Tom, as President of the Columbia Art League, got to play Santa to outstanding local artists.

Ho!, Ho!, Ho! - 'tis the season to buy artwork!





Water system operator training in India: Tom demonstrates Missouri pumping technique to amusement of Indian women





In spring 2004, some friends and I journeyed to Florida to visit a friend who just happened to have a house on a secluded beach on the Gulf.

Feeding the birds was on our menu!

Autumn found me with my friends in Wisconsin. We were amazed by the artists and capivated by the cranes as we biked the Mississippi River bayous and dicovered the simple Amish lifestyle.

Simple?

Doing without seems pretty complex to me!

Tom and John continued their never-ending exploration of water & wastewater treatment systems as $H_2O'C$ Engineering journeyed through its tenth year.

Autumn Color on the Elroy-Sparta, WI Trail



Sometimes one bicycle is all you need!



John & I, on an 'our winter-their summer' trip, discovered portions of the mystical Lord of the Rings country on both the North and South Islands of New Zealand. We enjoyed visiting Kiwi friends in Christchurch, Palmerston North, & Katikati as well as treks with friends in Peel Forest (native bush), Abel Tasman National Park and on the beaches of the Bay of Plenty.

During our Missouri summer, we resumed our explorations of the Canadian Maritime Provinces (Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick) as well as Quebec Province and Montreal, most of which we had never seen before.



We rented an Alamotorcar in Halifax, drove to Pictou and boarded Hector, a replica of the ship that brought a desperate band of starving Scots to Nova Scotia. On to the rocky, tree-lined shores of Cape Breton where the Acadians were reuniting and recalling the travails of Evangeline & Gabriel, the fishermen were repairing their lobster traps and the tourists were shopping & visiting the Alexander Graham Bell Museum in Baddeck.







We ferried to Prince Edward Island to see potato farms, light houses, sand dunes, a wind turbine farm & museum. In Charlottetown, we enjoyed a wonderful production of Anne of Green Gables. Confederation Bridge took us on to New Brunswick where unique rock sculptures, waterfalls and tidal flats of the Bay of Fundy awaited.









...and there was so much more to enjoy and discover along our journey -- ferries, fjords, botanic gardens, art museums, lovingly restored old cities, buskers, good food, entertainment, hospitality, warm friendly people,...

We hope you, too, will seek and find the joy of discovery in the New Year!



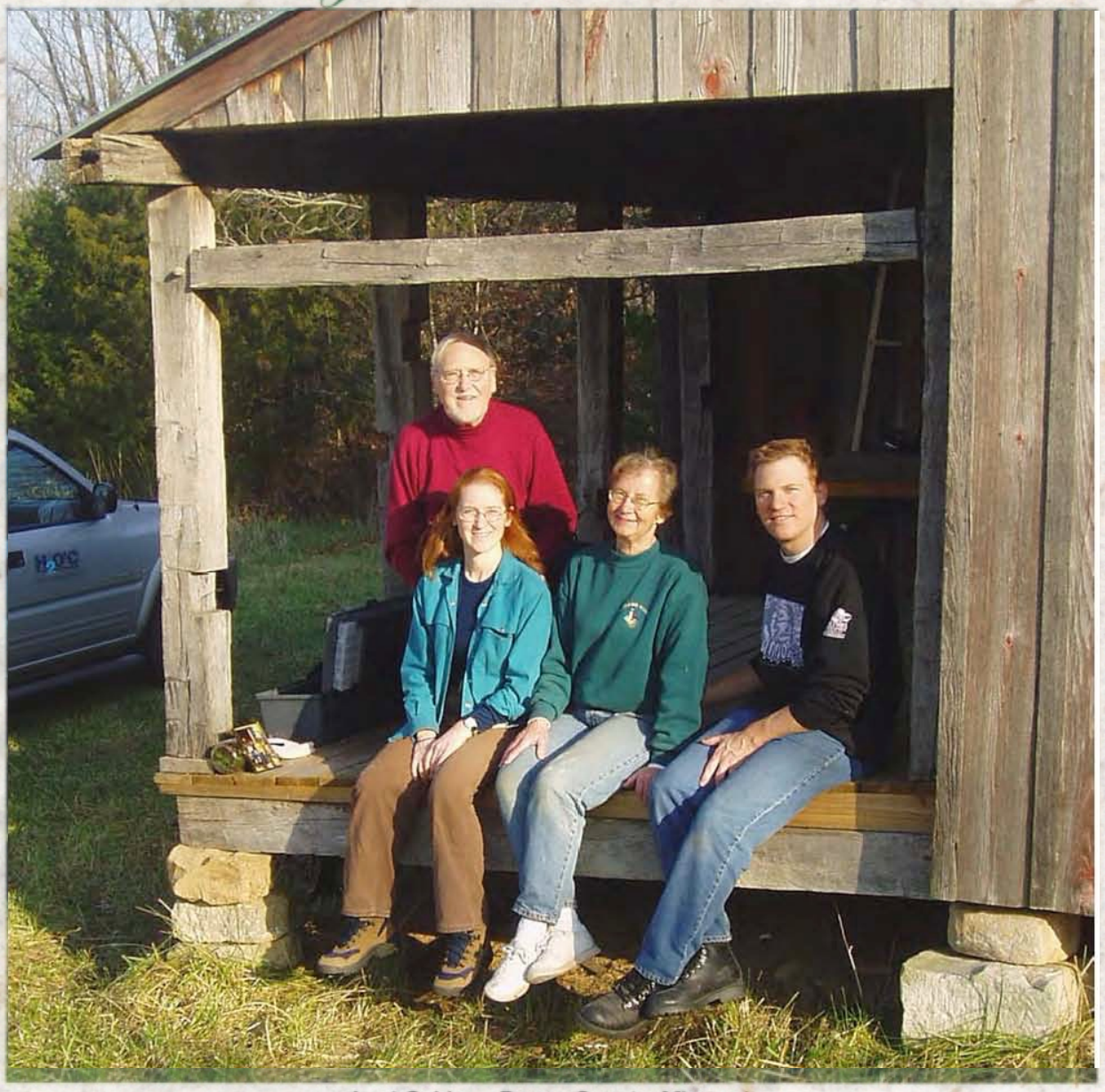


For those of us old enough to remember that:

"we have met the enemy,.."

Pogo

Merry Christmas 2005



Lost Cabin - Boone County, Missouri

© 2005 GSI

In the *spring*, John and I flew to NYC for his **Golden** Cooper (re)Union.

"50th? - It's my first!"

In addition to reminiscing and recalling with classmates things that may never have happened, we saw some

Shows: Avenue Q, Hairspray, The Blue Man Group

Museums: Metropolitan, Whitney, Frick, Guggenheim, Museum of Modern Art, Heller Gallery (Glass),

plus the unique "Ashes and Snow" photo exhibit in a gallery on Hudson River Pier 54. ***"Pier 54, where are you?"***



We lodged in Greenwich Village; lunched in Soho (Happy Mother's Day!); enjoyed wonderful spring blossoms in Central Park and Rockerfeller Center; took the A-train; gawked at bright lights of Broadway, visited ground zero; and vowed to come back very soon, perhaps, for John's **Copper** reUnion.



"...for the 'Advancement of Science and Art?' What kind of Union is that?"

Peter Cooper's Free Public Forum:
A. Lincoln spoke here...
"Right is Might!"



Peter Cooper drank here...
...no women were allowed...
until one owned the place.

"We were here before you were born"
"151 years and ale is well!"



Central Park reservoir, skyline; trees and flowers in profusion.



Tom took a break from H2O'C ENGINEERING water engineering to travel to London, Paris and Ireland for a well-earned vacation -- and to attend a very special birthday party!



Missouri Botanic Garden

In May, we had the good fortune to host guests from New Zealand, first from the South Island, then, from the North. This gave us the opportunity to revisit Missouri ourselves.



As part of a mentoring program, I volunteered as mentor for 4th graders. Enchante and I enjoyed our hour together each week.



Heather plants ginseng with 'Bia, planter's little helper.

Heather gave a presentation to the *13th National Small Farms Conference* on "Using Valuable Shade-Loving Native Plants (in this case, ginseng) for Diversification and Expansion of a Forest Farming Operation."

As President of the Columbia Art League, Tom enticed supporters by establishing a recurring pARTy at the gallery. Local artists spoke and were honored while potables and delectables were consumed.



We were especially pleased this year to have my mother, after 60 years in her Batavia home, move to a lovely retirement home only a few minutes from Tahoe Court. Mom has adapted exceptionally well to her new home and neighbors.

"Gram's even gaining weight!" "Aren't we all!"

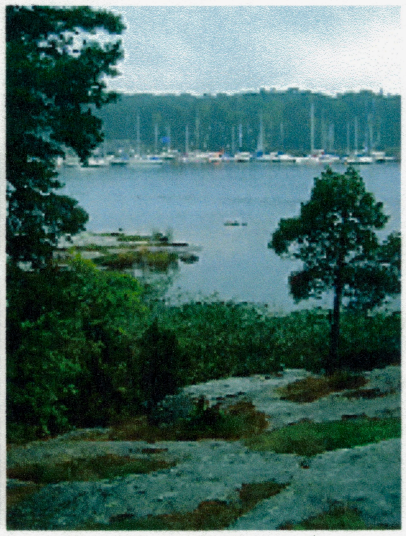
The Cape Cod Clevers visited all of us for an early Thanksgiving celebration - with turkey and all the trimmings.

In a re-enactment of our 'old ladies' bicycling trip two decades ago, two 'now-20-years-older' friends and I travelled to Holland to *'bike the dike'* in Friesland. As a special bonus, we added 11 days in Sweden to our itinerary.

Holland: canals, bicycles, windmills; Sweden: lakes, forests, boats







Once again, we are pleased to send our warmest wishes for a Happy New Year!





Merry Christmas 2006

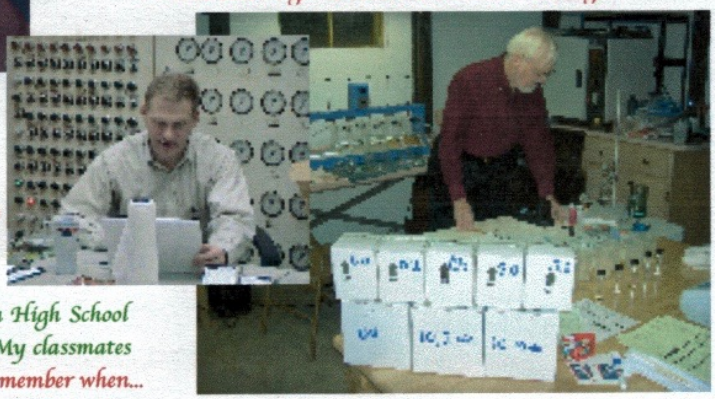
We trust this past year has been another wonderful and exciting year for you and your family -- and that you will share these precious holidays with those you cherish the most.

My 91-year-old mom enjoyed coast-to-coast family visitors this year. From Mass., her son, Bob, and his wife, Bonnie: and from Calif., nephew, Larry, and wife, Carol.
* We're in the middle!





John and Tom continued consulting through $H_2O'C$ Engineering. They were excited to be hired to design a radium removal plant.
* Who can we get to take the radioactive sludge?



This year, I visited good friends in Battle Lake, MN.
* -- near the origin of the Mississippi, it is 1,475' above and 2,552 curvy miles to the Gulf of Mexico!

I also attended my Batavia High School 50th Anniversary Reunion. My classmates were more fun than ever.* Remember when...

We were increasingly drawn to the Missouri countryside as Tom undertook to make our log cabin independent of utility-supplied power and water. He installed solar panels and electrical storage to power lights and a water pump. He also installed facilities for collecting and piping rainwater into the cabin. Meanwhile, in the forest, Heather continued her cultivation of ginseng and berries. But, the most unexpected development was the beautiful, sturdy outhouse John Leigers built as a 2005 Christmas present to the family.

* -- not one family in a million gets a new outhouse for Christmas!

* The privy will outlast the cabin!

* I doubt we'll ever fill her up!



Century-old log cabin and year-old pit privy



Tom and his dog, Zain



Vintage root cellar with deep roots



Berries, bittersweet, persimmons feed the birds



Stock (now deer) watering pond



Duckweed and reflections

Log Cabin (approx. 120 years old) at end of ‘Lost Cabin’ Road







The most exciting event of 2006 for us was the Sept. 15 marriage of our son, Tom, to Diana Moxon, a lovely, lively, intelligent woman born in Preston, England.

Someday, you may hear Diana's delightful accent. She contributes to the BBC Radio "Word of Mouth" series.

* I have an accent?

* Diana did a Mizzou campus interview piece on 'soda' versus 'pop'!

* I say 'Pepsi' or 'Coke'; or sometimes, 'Dr. Pepper'!



Heather and her fiancé, John Leigers, continue to enjoy life together. Heather helps John with the lighter part of his construction work while John helps Heather with the heaviest aspects of her 'Sustainable Agriculture Research grant'. Together here with 'Bia, they enjoy one of Columbia's loveliest snowfalls.

* Nothing like a record snowfall to get everyone into their cars to drive to the Mall to enjoy the spectacular winter view of the parking lot! * Really? What did you buy?



For our part, we continued to enjoy biking, gardening and an eclectic assortment of community involvements.

eclectic assortment of community involvements: mentoring, pilaticizing, theatrics, fortnightlying, leagueing, museeing, pARTying, ...

* If Stephen Colbare can coin new words, why not us?

* How about "Chocolate is my flavorite!"

We hope you, also, will find Joy and Love in your personal assortment of family, friends and community involvements in the coming New Year! -- and for all,

Peace on Earth!

the O'Connors 2401 Tahoe Court Columbia, MO 65203-1444 573-234-1012 john@h2oc.com

Merry Christmas 2007

May the New Year bring **Peace** to you, your loved ones and the world!

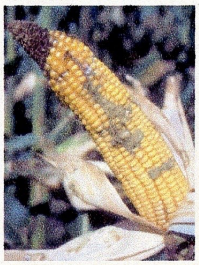


The April marriage of our daughter, Heather, to John Leigers highlighted the events of our year and brought new joy to our family life. A skilled carpenter and builder, John pursues his own busy practice.

Heather also accepted a position with the University of Missouri Plant Diagnostic Lab where she gets to identify plant parasites and diseases. The position allows her to continue coursework and study.

"...give us your tired, sick plants,
... yearning to be disease-free!"





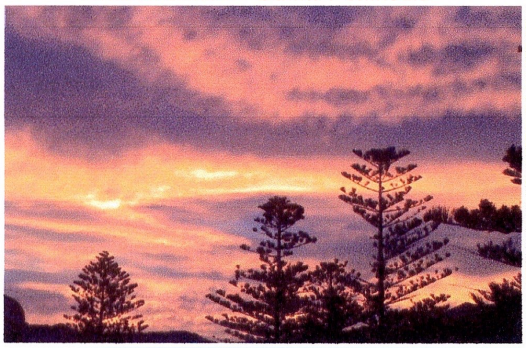
As executive director of the Columbia Art League, Tom's wife, Diana, hosted the 49th **Art in the Park**. She is now raising money for the 2008 move of the Art League Gallery into the historic Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts, currently under restoration.

Tom continues to operate H_2O'C Engineering - designing a radium removal water plant, training operators, and giving presentations on the history of wastewater (aka, sewage) treatment.



It was autumn down south when we vacationed in New Zealand in March.
We started in **Christchurch** and migrated toward the sun (north) by choo-choo, Cook Strait Ferry and autocar to visit Kiwi friends in Palmerston North and Katikati.

Akaroa Sunset - Banks Peninsula

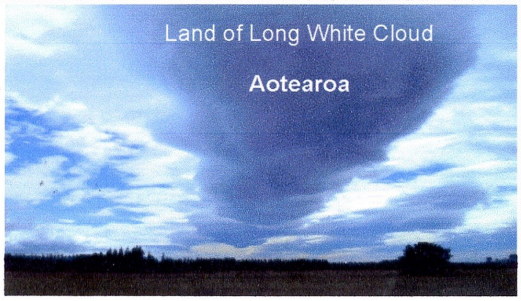


World's Fastest Reel Mower

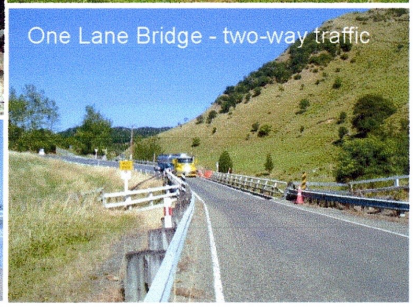


Kiwi Friends

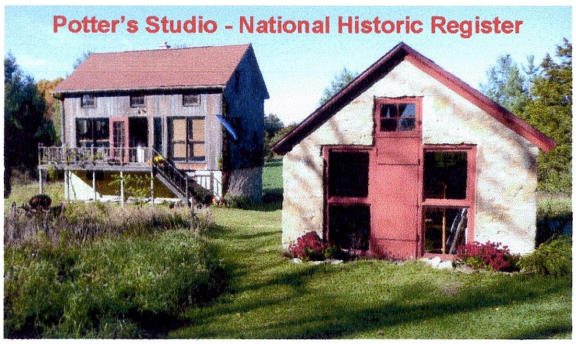








It was also autumn when we vacationed up north in Wisconsin in October.
We encircled the Baraboo/Mineral Point/Spring Green/Dodgeville region which hosts an extraordinary annual **Fall Art Tour** featuring the open studios of working artists.



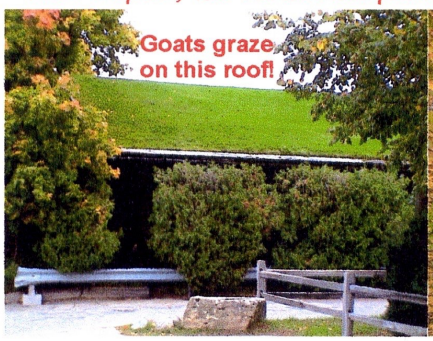
potter, painter, sculptor
quilter, weaver, jeweler
glassblower, printmaker
tile maker, woodworker
leather artist, blacksmith
canoe maker, goldsmith
photographer, illustrator
calligrapher, papermaker
furniture, woodcarver
stained and fused glass
bead boxes, mixed media

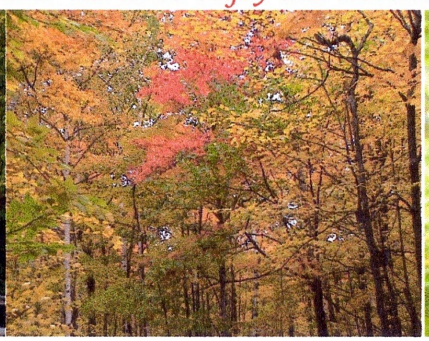
••--isn't brewing an art?



Cinderella & her Prince at Circus World

Thereafter, we ventured further north to enjoy the vibrant colors of **Door County**.







This year, our family suffered the loss of Aunt Carrie at age 93. ***Carolyn Lippold*** *was sister of my mother,* ***Agnes Clever****, who, at 92, remains active at The Terrace Retirement Home in Columbia. [Carrie is seen here with her first car.] The death of one who is loved and admired is an important reminder of the value of a good life.*





Boxing (St. Stephens) Day - 26 December

'Twas the Day after Crispness, when all the rich folks
thought about gifting to some poorer blokes.
Merchants gave food and some Masters gave cash,
and all gathered round to have a big bash.
Christmass-boxes in Church - all stuffed with their stash,
were opened to needy ones desperate for hash.
Tradespeople, servants, serfs and the poor (even)
were feted with gifts 'on the feast of St. Stephen'.
But all were reminded as their Lords faded from sight,
don't take this to mean that you have any right!

The onset of each ***New Year*** *not only prompts a retrospective,*
..but spurs anticipation of events to come.

2007 Retrospective:

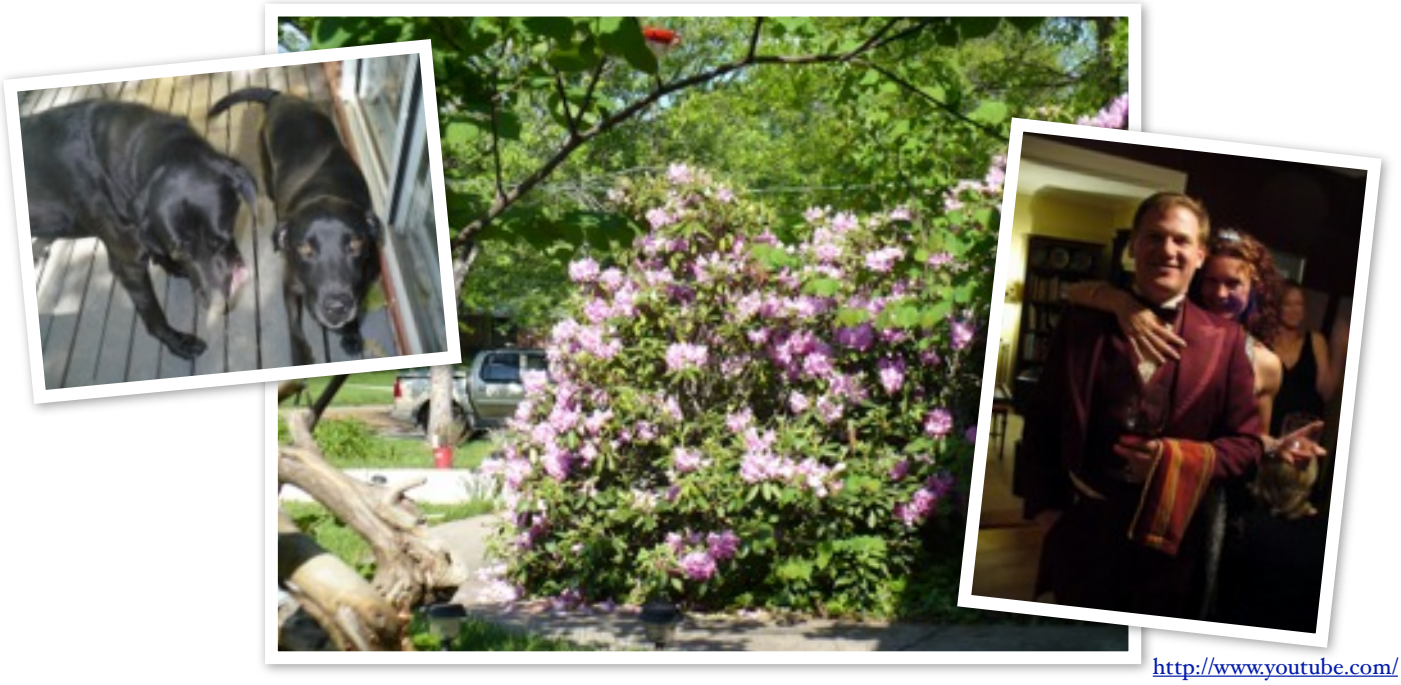
John and Heather's Nuptials (and Parties)
Our Twelfth St. Swithun's Day Celebration
Our Forty-First Christmas Greetings Letter
Mizzou Football Tigers ranked #1 ••-- *for a week*
See the Tigers in the Cotton Bowl *New Year's Day*

2008 Anticipation:

Our Forty-Second Anniversary ••--*a gift of real estate?*
My Seventieth Birthday ••--*send a card on January 25!*
John's Seventy-Fifth ••--*open a fifth on February 11!*
Tom & John's Book on Water Treatment Plant Performance Evaluations and Operations ••--*who has time to read this?*

With our warmest wishes for a ***New Year*** *filled with love and the joys brought by peace, family, friendship, good health, good food, and all of those things that can make you truly* ***happy****!*

the O'Connors 2401 Tahoe Court Columbia, MO 65203 573-234-1012 joni@h2oc.com www.h2oc.com



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4H7TgAOneKI

2007 Report

My cushy-ass life

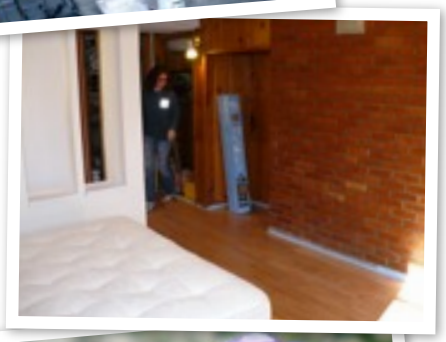


http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W48RcjeXjIY

Everything's peachy! I have a wonderful wife, family, friends, home, neighbors, dog, fish, a couple cars, no boss, a television you could land a helicopter on, and a cell phone that takes pictures and makes waffles. I drive my 185-pound self around willy-nilly in a 2,700-pound vehicle. There are a vast array of stores that I can drive to and get pretty much everything I could possibly want, short of haggis. I can get on a plane and be pretty much anywhere in the world within a day. The electricity is on 99.99% of the time, and it's so cheap that I run a refrigerator all winter. The best drinking water in the world is piped directly into my home, and every morning I take a dump in it. Then it goes away! There are millions of people working for pennies making all sorts of crap for me, and other, better-paid people making sure that I won't get my head stuck in it or get sick if I eat the paint off it. Yep, it sure is easy being me.

And the best part of it all is that I truly appreciate every bit of it, 'cuz I know that all of this fun, crazy shit can't last forever.





The New Guest Suite

For your visiting pleasure, we now have a fully-functional guest suite, complete with a cushy-ass queen-size bed. There was a large opening between the bathroom and bedroom, but upon further review, we decided to block that off with a slab of styrofoam and a picture. So now it's safe to visit as couples while pooping as singles.



Springtime

Good times. Planted some fruit and nut trees at the cabin. They're mostly dead, but maybe I'll have an apple and a sorry little almond in a few years.

Snippy came out and passed inspection for two more years of that crazy bullshit.



Rusty and Becky handled Cinco de Mayo flawlessly.



Deutschland, Uber Alles

As part of a Rotary program, I helped host a cultural exchange team from Germany. I'd like to think that they had half as much fun as I did.

Video at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecJoR7Joq4o

2



Chicago

Ben moved to Chicago, and we immediately visited while Celtic Fest was in full swing. Cabers were tossed, sheep were herded, harps were struck, bagpipes were squawked, dark beers were transformed to clear pisses, but there wasn't a haggis to be seen.

Wedding

O'CONNOR STYLE

My sister Heather and John Leigers were legally wed by Matt Mehmert, who read from Darwin's "The Origin of Species."

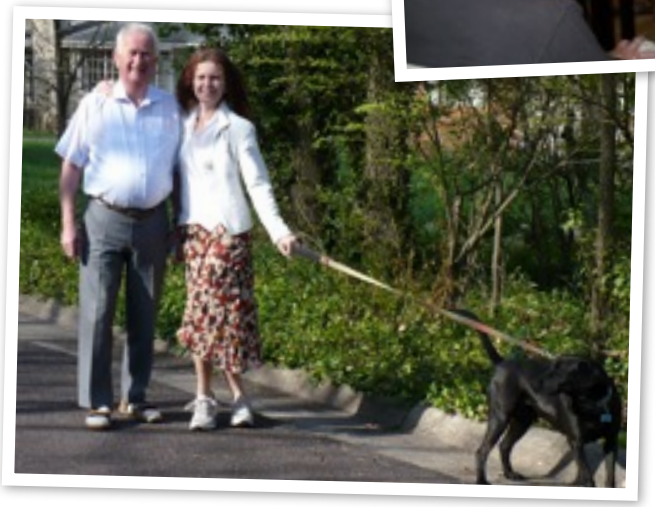


Family

Diana's dad, Ron Moxon, visited all the way from Preston, England.

Sadly and shockingly, Columbians lost our Queen Mother, Betty Brown, in 2007. Long live the Queen.





3



Viva

Everyone should go to Vegas at least once and no more than five times. Craig and Shana renewed their vows at the Graceland Chapel with Elvis presiding.

Video at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWaEhFW6bDk





We're Gettin' the Band Back Together

Not that we're buying a bus or anything, but a few of the Rufus guys have been getting together as *Stinkin' Refuse* or *The Jerry Wagner Quintet*, or *Don and the Gay Apparels*.



Rotary Water Project

As the International Project guy in my Rotary club, I was able to add a very tiny bit of cush to the lives of a bunch of schoolchildren in Bhatkal, India. We funded a project that supplies treated drinking water to a school.





Summertime, and the Living is Cushy

FLOAT ON

The Fourth of July weekend was campground-style cushy. A little rain was no match for tons of food, gallons of booze, and acres of big-ass tarp.



Video at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXVXwWPuo6M



Art in the Park

ART ON



Diana ran the show at Art in the Park. I ran the Gator. The $15,000 featured musical act was The Grass Roots. Yeah, that's what we said, too.

Diana is the local media darling, having appeared in every form of print, radio, and television that we have.

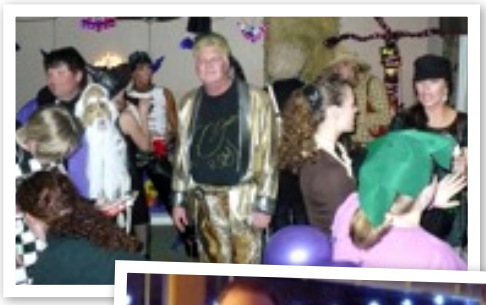
Video at: http://youtube.com/watch?v=TCv9EbiAB8M



Roots, Blues, and BBQ

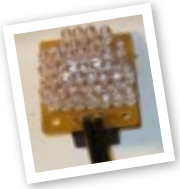
ROCK ON

Boone County Bank put together a fantastic music festival that turned downtown into a full-blown rock'n'roll extravaganza. With bicycles, Shake's cups, and a strategically-located refrigerator, we were able to avoid the 'blues bucks' and 'kiddie-corral beer bin' bullshit.





Seeing the Light



Last year doom boxes, this year LEDs. Here are 44 in series, providing a respectable amount of light for less than two watts. This'll come in handy at the cabin or when things are less cushy in general. Or for a cool tiara or Halloween costume.

Halloween



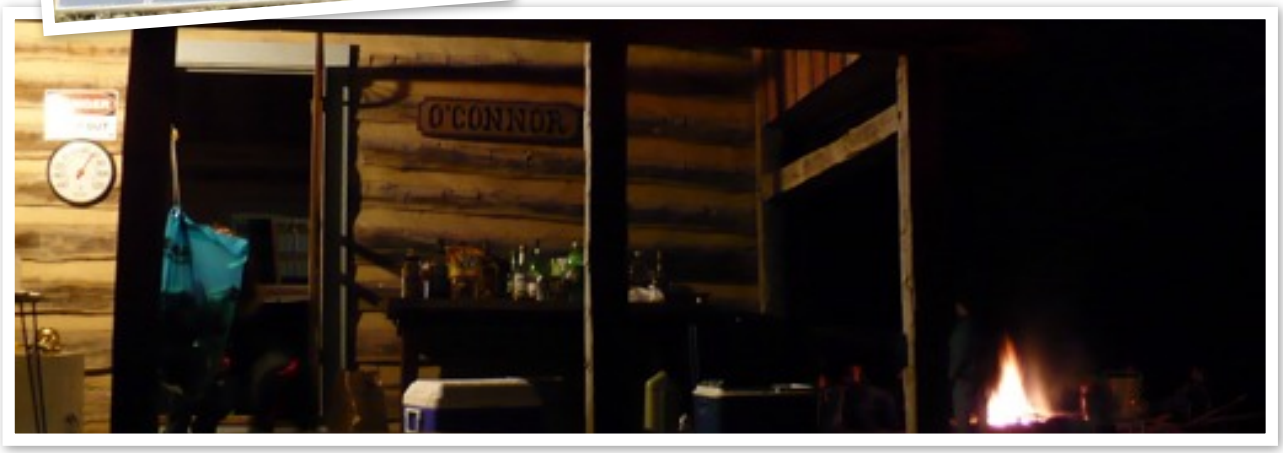
We availed ourselves of all the fun and unique things that Halloween lets you get away with doing.



The Cabin

OFF-GRID CUSH

The cabin is sporting solar panels, rainwater collection, and indoor plumbing. Very cushy by historical standards. By Diana's, not so much.





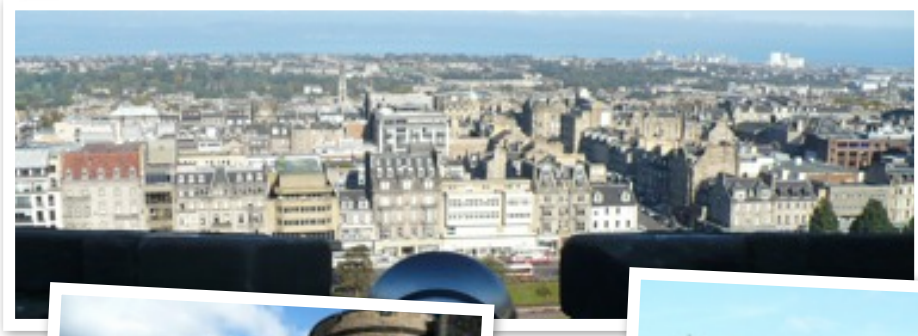


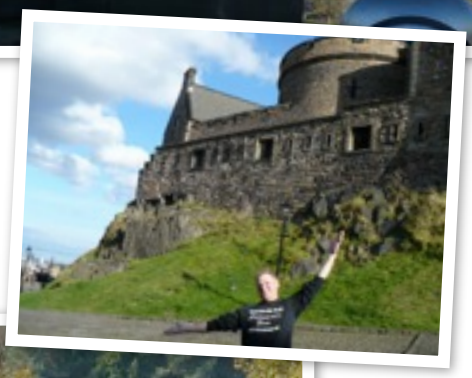
UK 2007 Tour



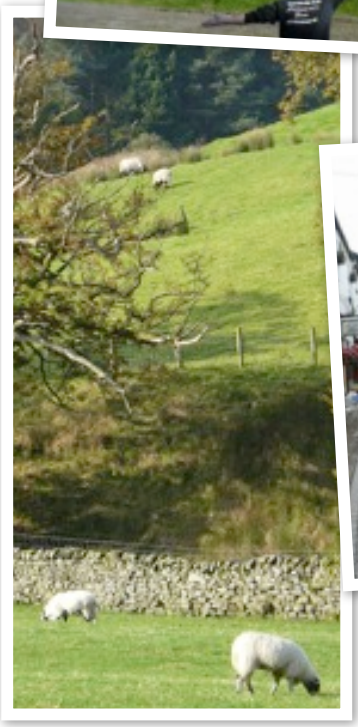
This year's UK excursion took us to Edinburgh, Scotland, in addition to Preston and London, England.

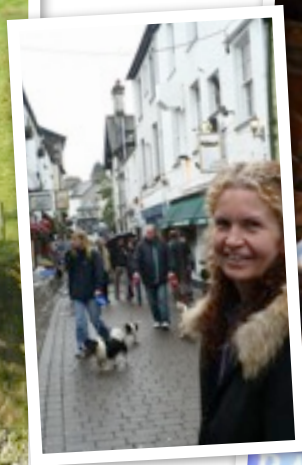
Haggis, neeps, and tatties. Scotch. Castles. Tea. Museums. Galleries. Beers. Rugby. Weak dollar. Spamalot. Moxons and Barbers.



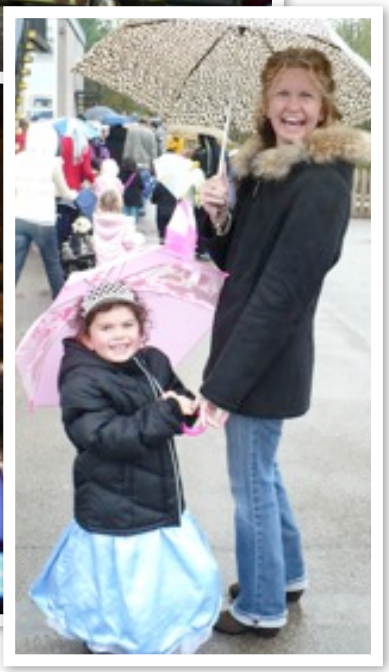














Missouri Tiger Football

THE BEATING OF THE JAYHAWKS

As if it wasn't enough that Tiger football consistently gives us excuses to get together and drink, this year we got to get together, drink, and yell a bunch.

H2O'C Engineering

My dad and I continue to work together, doing consulting engineering, water plant operator training, and generally making it up as we go along.

Peak Cushiness

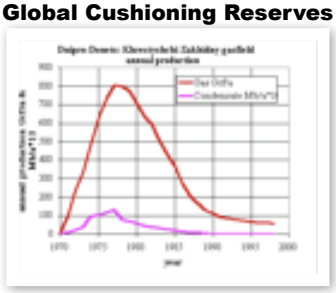
It's been a tremendously cushy year, and we're looking forward to another one. However, there are those who warn us that we are approaching peak cushiness. As the graphs show, the earth's supply of raw cushioning materials is being depleted, while the world's increasing population is exerting a higher cush demand.

May your world be comforting and resilient in 2008, and may your cushiness be sustainable.

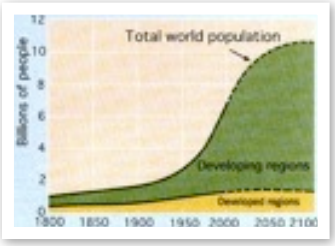
Spongy Love,

Tom and Diana

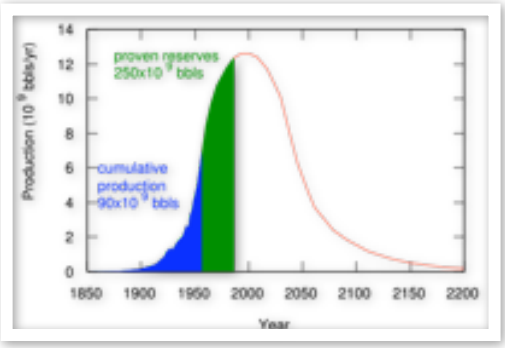
Global Cushioning Reserves



Global Cushioning Demand



Peak Cushiness



2008

We hope all of our friends and loved ones will enjoy a Happy, Merry, Great, Joyous, Wonderful, Mirthful, Vivacious, Festive, Gay, Spectacular, Gleeful, Jocund, Cheerful, Wondrous, Stupendous, Jaunty, Awesome, Incredible, Fabulous, Blithe, Jolly, Phenomenal, Stunning, Sprightly, Hilarious, Extraordinary, Remarkable, Astonishing, Miraculous, Amazing, Joyful Holiday Season, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, New Year, Boxing Day, Winter Solstice, Alamo Bowl, & Noel.

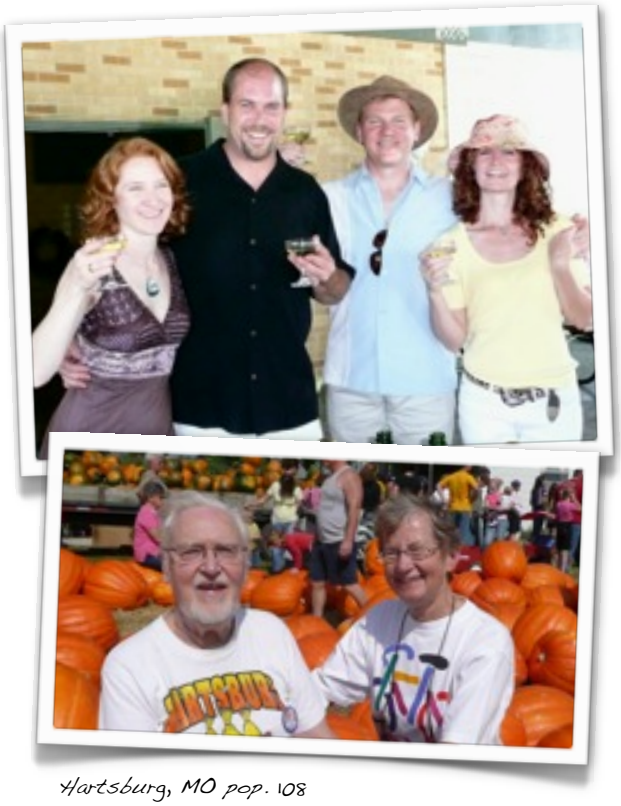




Heather, John, Tom, Diana ....and the Elderly People

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

from the Old'Connors



Hartsburg, MO pop. 108
Pumpkinfest attendance: 20,000

Our family has enjoyed another year of good health and happiness, along with a measure of sadness.

Heather's husband, John, has been designing and building decks (his favorite task) and pergolas, repaving drives, renovating kitchens and bathrooms.

Ready for Happy Hour?
John just installed a bar in their basement.

Tom's wife, Diana, as Executive Director of the Columbia Art League, vigorously solicited contributions for installing the Columbia Art League Gallery into the newly-restored Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts.

Join CAL & $upport the Arts

This year, Heather expanded her research activities at the University of Missouri. She was invited (hired) to participate in a plant research program that involves applying newly-developed analytical techniques.

"They don't always work..."

In addition to his involvement in community affairs, Tom continues to manage the projects of H_2O'C Engineering. Along with John, he has co-authored a book on Water Treatment to be published by John Wiley & Sons.

John Wiley says it will be ready in February.



Agnes Hainisch,
Batavia High School, Class of 1933

In March 2008, attended by loved ones, including my brother Bob, who came from Massachusetts, Mom died peacefully at age 93. Her older sister, Carrie, died the previous year, also at age 93.

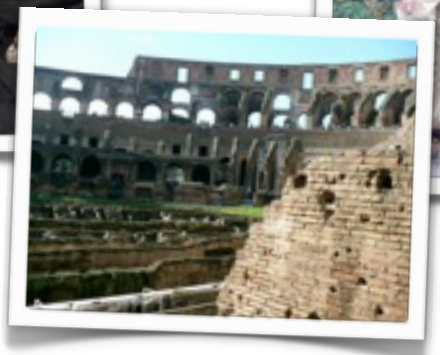
A memorial service was held in Batavia, IL for her many life-long friends and relatives, including two of her high school classmates. She was buried in Batavia alongside my father, Lynn.



photo booth, 1965



Twenty-First Century Four-um at the Second Century Roman Forum



Colosseum, 80 AD (eighty-eighty?)



The Village of Charlwood has no streetlights, so small THE STREET needs no other name.



In November, we collected my 70th birthday present which was "a fun, exciting, no-expenses-paid" trip to England with Tom & Diana, where we remet her father and brother and met other friends and relatives while feasting on delicious food, tasting tea (with milk, of course), and running through raindrops. Since we were nearby, we traveled on to Rome to visit our artist cousins, Larry and Carol. More fabulous food, "drinks well" wine and sunny skies. I could go for a milestone birthday every year.





Garden Walk, Champaign-Urbana Master Gardeners, 2008

Came close to needing a canoe as friends and I biked along the flooded Fox River in Illinois.





Aided by ‘Bia, Heather plants ginseng in Missouri forest as part of her research project.

2008 Report

Good Times



The Grail

For a long time, I've tried to give original, local art as gifts, and I always got out the handmade bowls and shit for special events. So I thought I "got it."

Recently, my friend and local claymaster, Karsten, kindly gave us a couple of his lovely, handcrafted mugs. Naturally, we put them in the cupboard where the mugs go.

One morning, I'm standing in the kitchen, drinking out of some generic mug with "Team Building Exercise '99" printed on it, and it instantly becomes painfully obvious how horribly wrong it all is.



I get Karsten's mug out of the cupboard, transfer my tea into it, and start pulling all these old generic mugs out of the cupboard and into a paper bag to be Freecycled.



And there I am in my moment of clarity. I don't need a whole cupboard full of two dozen crappy mugs from a huge ceramics factory in Asia with a bunch of bullshit printed on them. I just need one really cool mug, handmade right here in Columbia by my artist friend, that I use every day.

I'm extremely pleased with myself for about a minute, after which I am disappointed in myself for my preceding decades of cluelessness. Hope you've already Found Your Grail.

I played some music in 2008--just just enough to have a little fun and get into a little trouble. I was the orchestra director and guitarist for The Full Monty at Columbia Entertainment Company. Brian and Sean capably anchored the rhythm section.





We picked up Scott from the Full Monty cast, and he joined Stinkin' Refuse for a few local appearances. But we always made him stand in the back of the picture.





Thanks to the Mumbers and the power of the Shell Blanket, The Roast was on over Memorial Day weekend.

2008's Saint Patrick's Day Party was more documented than usual.





Diana and I were able to sponge off Ben and Molly in Chicago and soak up some good times there.

I've basically quit drinking soda, and since I had some lying around, I discovered that if you put yeast in soda, you get booze. Also, two-liter bottles can take a ridiculous amount of pressure without actually exploding.



John and Nick and I tore off my old redwood deck and built this sweet new cedar deck. Zain digs it.





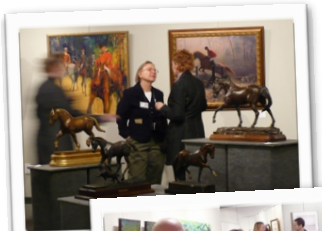
We got a big-ass grill so that we could have a big-ass deck party. We might do that again next summer.



Efforts to increase the cush factor and feather the post-apocalyptic nest at the cabin continued, with the planting of fruit and nut trees. And more diddling around with LEDs and solar panels.



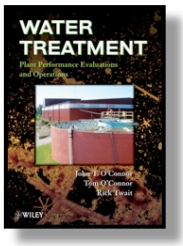






Diana continued her heroic efforts with the Columbia Art League--stabilizing the organization financially, pulling off another fabulous Art in the Park at Stephens Lake, and moving the operation down the street and into the newly-renovated Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts.

My dad and I continued with our consulting firm, H2O'C Engineering. We bundled a bunch of our studies at Bloomington, IL into book form, and Wiley Interscience published it. I expanded our scope from water into renewable energy, doing some work for the National Biodiesel Board.



Through Rotary, I helped bring clean water to the village of Chandanwadi in India.



John and Heather had another great Halloween party, filled with participants. Diana was a little white lie, and I was Brian the dog.





Diana and I saw Obama speak in Columbia a few days before he was elected President. Probably a coincidence.

News was too painful and annoying to take directly in '08, so we assimilated it via The Daily Show and The Onion, which foretold, monitored, and summed up the Bush presidency perfectly. And of course, this classic.

I made this Onion logo table and emailed this pic to The Onion, but they never replied. I guess they get that kinda stuff all the time.



Matt made us this redonkeydiculously cool kitchen island. Made it. All by himself. Out of trees and shit. Maybe he bought the handles, but I wouldn't be too surprised if he mined the ore, forged the metal, and nickel-plated those bitches himself.





We enjoyed several trips this year--I went to Vermont, and we had a nice, relaxing trip to Texas, but our big outing was to Italy and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.



In celebration of my mom's 70th birthday, we took my folks on the trip and visited all the family in Preston and the Barbers in London.













We did a bunch of the tourist stuff--museums, the polka dot boat that doesn't have dots anymore, the London Eye, shopping, tea, fish and chips, pints of cask ale, Spamalot, the Lake District... and I was excited to see this moai from Easter Island, since I enjoy his comic strip.



Serendipitously, we were at Westminster Abbey on Remembrance Day.





We flew to Italy on my birthday (hence no party this year), where we met up with my second cousin, Larry, and his wife Carol, who have an apartment there.

Rome is a great city to just screw around aimlessly in--easily walkable, great people-watching, and wondrous sights are constantly springing up on you. The food is great, but it's pointless to eat the pizza if you live in Columbia.



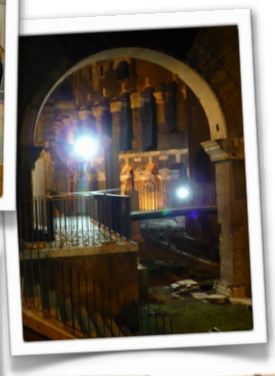






We visited a bunch of the classic tourist sites, including the massive bird flock of Castle Saint Angelo and the corresponding world's-most-shat-upon Volkswagon.







So... that was fun. Hope you are having a great 2009. I'll get to work on next year's report right away.



Lots of Love,
Diana and Tom

Season's 2009 Greetings

We send our warmest wishes
along with our hope that
the future with a peaceful world
for the New Year,
mankind may yet secure
for those we love and cherish.

A Tale of Three Cities



Heather and I celebrated her 40th birthday with a trip to our Nation's Capitol. There we met friends from Blacksburg, VA, and College Park, MD to lunch and share historical and scenic adventures with.



In the summer, John and I boarded Amtrak for a pleasant journey to the Second City. We enjoyed Millennium Park and the new wing of the Art Institute. After many years, we reprised the architectural boat tour only to discover a new, revitalized River Walk.



This autumn, John and I returned to The Big Apple for *The Cooper ReUnion* and the unveiling of its acclaimed new building. We managed to visit some museums, see some shows, shop at Macy's, and join the throngs visiting Ellis Island.

Welcome, huddled masses!

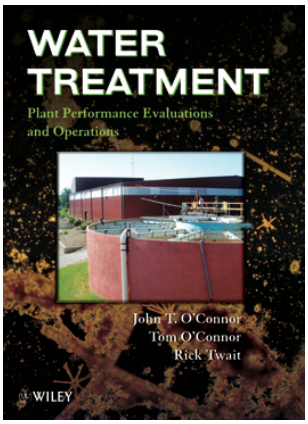


H_2O'C Engineering

John and Tom continued consulting for water utilities. They were most excited to be awarded a contract to develop a long-range plan for a progressive community seeking to move toward sustainability by reducing its carbon footprint and becoming energy self-sufficient using alternative energy sources.

However, their new book on ***Water Treatment*** is only slowly ascending to the best seller's list.

- *...very slowly...*





When not outside gardening, **Heather** spent much of her time in an MU lab developing intricate new techniques in an effort to confer novel and (hopefully) desirable properties to plants.

- *Have you tried giving **Audrey III** a few drops of your blood?*







John and Heather were often found outdoors; camping, hiking, backpacking, wading, and, occasionally, running from disturbed and disgruntled bees. When not in the woods, John was could be found working with wood to create exceptional decks. His renowned construction skills were in constant demand.

- *When can you fit us in?*

Diana and Tom cultivated Columbia's art lovers, hosting receptions at the Columbia Art League and organizing the annual festival, Art in the Park. In her role as Executive Director, Diana has become a local media spokeswoman for the arts.

At home, even as Diana exploits her English gardener's genes, Tom confounds her landscape with curious experimental energy & rain harvesting mechanisms.

- *He has reduced their electricity use by 80%.*
- *She seems to be enduring it pretty well.*



Avid gardeners and denizens of the local farmer's market, all four relish cooking fresh produce and creating culinary works of art.

- *What's for dinner?*

Meanwhile, **John** has quietly embarked on new endeavors including:

reading books (He joined The Book Guys reading group.),
drinking wine (with the Friday Afternoon Drinking and Carousing Association, and
playing with the computer while leaving all the hard engineering work to Tom.

- *Oh, ...and did I mention doing crossword puzzles and solving Cryptoqoutes?*





As for yours truly,

I continued volunteer work with the Columbia Art League,
the League of Women Voters,

- *... this year, our chapter celebrated its 90th year.*
- ... *you need to get some younger members ...*

and mentoring a 4th grader.

- *... now, that is really fun ...*
- *... also, a good way to find out if you are smarter than a 4th grader ...*
- *... or not.*

I also continued my schooling, taking *lifelong learning* classes.

- *... and I hear she's a really tough grader ...*

For exercise, I bicycled on our beautiful converted railroad trail (logging my highest annual mileage) and continued Pilates & aerobics classes at Columbia's Recreation Center

- *... our local school for flabby abbys* ...



We are grateful for another wonderful year with our family and trust that your heart has also been filled with wondrous and memorable experiences shared with your loved ones ...

We sincerely hope that the New Year will bring you more fun than a fistful of balloons.

Season's Greetings

We again send you our Sincerest Wishes for a

Festive 2010 Holiday Season and a Happy New Year

We trust this year has been another wonderful and exciting adventure for you and your family and that you will come together to share these precious holidays with those you cherish most.



Chicago Blackhawks win 2010 Stanley Cup

This past year our family enjoyed a happy mélange of fun parties, impromptu celebrations, trail bicycling, eating, walking, exercising, gardening, book reading, play-going, volunteering, mentoring, and hosting friends; all blended with photography, art, entertainment, and travel.

We enjoyed visits from brother, Bob, and sister-in-law, Bonnie, as well as from the *Bikin' Babes*, dear friends from Missouri, Illinois, and Virginia who have biked together for 25 years at locations around the globe.



Trains carried us to Chicago, while planes flew us to Colorado vistas and to historic *'Mediterranean worlds'* that were very new to us.

Bicycles carried us to nearby destinations along Missouri's scenic Katy Trail which also provided many opportunities for nature photography.



© Gartner Studios

After much research and skillful planning by Heather, we undertook to travel to *Sicily* and *Spain* this past spring.



Larry, Heather & John Leigers, Carol, John at the intersection between our venerable apartments on the island of Ortygia, Siracusa. Age and moisture caused our apartment entryway to collapse.

In April, Heather, the two Johns, and I rendezvoused with our San Francisco artist cousins, Larry and Carol Lippold (larrylippold.com), in Siracusa, Sicily. They shepherded us along the well-worn stone-paved streets of Ortygia, through farmer's markets and museums, and otherwise provided wonderful guidance, interpretation, home-cooked cuisine, and companionship.

Good weather, comfortable accommodations, friendly hosts, fascinating historical sites, followed us through our Sicilian journeys to *Neapolis, Noto, Ragusa, Lipari, Taormina, and Catania*. Only the volcanic eruption at Eyjafjalla Glacier created a small ripple in our travel plans.



Heather selects fresh fruits and veggies at the Ortygia Farmer's Market.



Short Keeper of the Tall Gate



John and Heather at the Botanic Gardens in Taormina, near Mount Etna.



Us, on the Aeolian Island of Lipari

From Sicily, we flew to *Barcelona, Spain* for the culture and museums, then, to *Sitges* for the sun, sand, and surf.





Tree Huggers of Barcelona



Ortygia, Sicily
Farmer's Market



Fishmongers

Octopi



Squid

Nut Vendor







Oddities and Ends



It appears I became a *'professional'* artist by selling my first photo entry, *Autumn Leaves*, in the Columbia Art League Member's Show at its November 2010 opening reception.



When called to Rome on a consulting assignment, Tom was delighted that Diana was able to join him. Still, he claims her shopping cost more than the flight.



Our old log cabin became a shooting location for an independent filmmaker. You've probably heard of *Winter's Bone*? This wasn't it.



Tom continued working on and lecturing about water as *$H_2O'C$ Engineering* entered into its 17th year (www.h2oc.com).



John & Heather could often be found hiking Missouri trails and traversing its clear streams.



With good friends living in downtown Chicago, Heather & John, Diana & Tom, John & I, alternately, visited the Windy City for entertainment, culture, ..., pizza & beer.

We hope that you have also enjoyed another year of happiness and simple pleasures, always finding it possible to laugh at the human comedy along the way.

We believe that examining and enjoying fragments of the treasures of days past adds to the nostalgia and appreciation of what our lives have been.



the O'Connors

We offer you our Heartfelt Wishes for a

Myrrhie 2011 Christmas and a Happy New Year

We hope this year has been another wonderful adventure for you and your family
and that you will gather together to share these precious holidays with those you cherish most.





This past year our family enjoyed Missouri's outdoors by trail bicycling, hiking, flower and vegetable gardening plus, for Tom, designing and building energy conservation projects. Again, autumn was particularly beautiful.







Our travels took us to the mountains of Colorado with hiking and biking buddies; to Newfoundland on a Road Scholar program; and to New York City for a long weekend. Back home, we were fortunate to host friends from New Zealand, Illinois, Alabama, Virginia, & Minnesota, plus our kin, Bob & Bonnie, from Massachusetts.

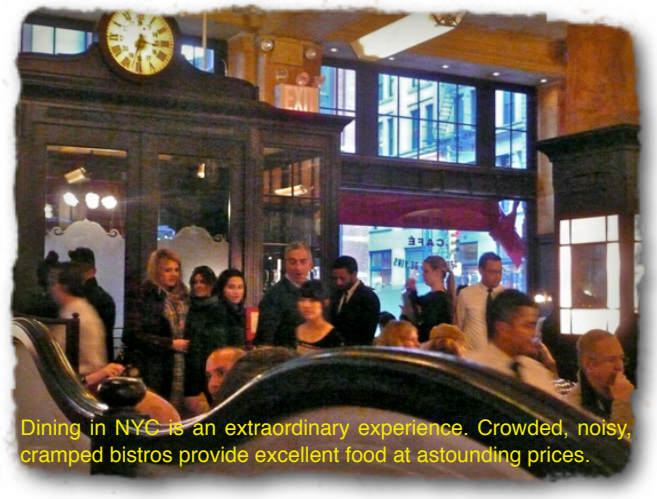


In Greenwich Village, *New York's Finest* guarded us along with the artists, musicians, terrorists, onlookers and generic loiterers occupying **Washington Square Park**



Christmas lights in Zuccotti Park

Downtown, the World Trade Center site and Memorial were essentially off limits to civilians, while the police alone constituted a street crowd. Nearby, the protesters occupying Zuccotti Park, looking much like your average NYC subway crowd, were surrounded by barricades breached only by a police-monitored entry/exit point.



Dining in NYC is an extraordinary experience. Crowded, noisy, cramped bistros provide excellent food at astounding prices.

Diana arranged our expedition to *The Big Apple* as a surprise gift for Tom's 45th Birthday.

Although the Times Square and Rockefeller Center crowds were at near peaks, we did find some measure of refuge at the Museums of Modern Art (MOMA) and Natural History.



We visited **The Great Hall** in **The Cooper Union** where **Mark Twain** was the first speaker.



In John's view, the greatest improvement in New York was the conversion of the old *High Line* Rail Line to a linear park.

"Whoever conceived of this generous gift to New York's walkers, birders, joggers and tourists should be awarded a Nobel Prize."



View of the Manhattan Bridge from the Brooklyn Bridge







Along with Sandi, my friend since childhood, plus a coachload of *Road Scholars*, we toured the charming fishing villages of **Newfoundland**. We ate codfish and drank beer brewed with water melted from glaciers. We recommend the trip, but suggest you dress for weather.



John & Tom consulted, conducted operator training and lectured as *H_2O'C Engineering* entered into its 18th year. You can access some of their more whimsical slide shows at https://communities.acs.org/blogs/h2oc



John, as TVs Dexter, at his and Heather's wild and 'WEIRDLY' wonderful Annual Halloween Costume Party.



Both excellent cooks, Heather & John serve a main dish at the *XVI Celebration of the Feast of St. Swithun.*



This autumn, a gaggle of giggling girl friends made our way to Keystone, Colorado mainly to gab, gawk, and gobble.
We also hiked in the snow.



I regularly bicycle the Missouri River Trail. To enjoy an early Thanksgiving dinner, we rode 16 km to Boonville. Some of us even biked back, turkey in tummies.



This spring, John undertook the arduous task of reroofing our home. It is beautiful and we are now set for the next fifty years. We will update you in our 95th letter.



We trust you have enjoyed yet another year of life's simple pleasures,
always finding it possible to smile at our human comedy along the way.

Season's 2012 Greetings

We trust that this year your journey has been serene as you sailed through placid waters with a fair wind at your back. We also hope that the Holidays and the New Year will bring you to ports where you will find peace and take your comfort among family and good friends.



Our little crew remained steadfast as we enjoyed another year of peace, happiness and contentment.

With Heather's assistance,her husband John brings comfort and beauty into numerous Columbia homes.

♭ Renovations for comfort and joy ♭ comfort and joy ♭♭"

Tom and Diana's newest creative activity takes the form of a series of whimsical newspaper columns chronicling their efforts to conserve and reduce their household energy use. *Energy independence in 2013!*

Tom and John continue to consult with Missouri and Illinois water utilities, providing operator training and evaluating system performance and efficiency.

For fun, John also contributes to the American Chemical Society website on water and wastewater chemistry and technology.

As in past years, I continue to bicycle, exercise, volunteer and serve as secretary for the Boone County League of Women Voters. *Campaign finance reform! Now!*



Despite adverse weather, Heather and John again brought forth a beautiful and productive native grass/flower/garden crop.



John and I were content to attend plays and concerts plus offer 'granddog-sitting-service' while the 'kids' were traveling.

"Remember to take plastic bags on your walk."



While Tom ministered to H_2O'C Engineering, Diana continued to direct the Columbia Art League.

"CAL was founded in 1959!"

Tom created a local stir as he built Columbia's first **solar panel pergola**. The *Power Couple* now sells enough energy to the City to offset any power that they purchase.

"The solar panel warranty guarantees 85% rated output after 25 years."



Diana & Tom are avid gardeners. Record summer heat revealed which vegetables were hardiest. "In addition, there is almost no grass to mow."

Thanks to our kids' gardens, we were treated to *fresh from the vine* produce much of the growing season.

This summer, we journeyed to the Missouri Botanical Gardens (St. Louis) to enjoy their spectacular display of illuminated art.

The **Chinese Lantern Festival** was creatively presented as

"Art by Day, Magic by Night."







The **dragons** were constructed of porcelain plates, saucers, cups, ..., whereas the **globes** were crafted of fine silk.

The illumination after nightfall caused the daywatchers to retrace their steps for yet another 'artventure'.







Missouri Botanic Garden: Chinese Lantern Festival - 2012



Tall Ships

A trip East brought me to Baltimore Harbor where the

Sailabration

attracted tall ships and singing sailors from around the world in commemoration of the bicentennial of. of the War of 1812.

♭ **O, say can you see,** ♯♭



In August, with friends, I traveled to Norway to board an icebreaker for a once-in-a-lifetime Arctic Circle adventure.
*"**Svalbard** was icy cold, but is rapidly melting and may soon become a winter vacation destination."*







Homesite along fjord in Norway

With Heather & John, we returned to the Missouri Botanical Gardens in for their wonderfully creative December Christmas Show.
"We did a little shopping, too!"



We hope that, in the coming year, each day will bring a new adventure into your life, whether you take a trip to a remote Pacific Isle or an uplifting visit to your local art gallery. We believe that adventure is more in the spirit of one's enterprise than in an exotic location.

Finally, we trust that our nation will finally find the courage to ban weapons that cruelly ravage the lives of our children and their families.

♭ *We wish you a Merry Christmas* ♯♭

Merry 2013 Christmas

May love and laughter light your days and warm your heart and home.
May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.
May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures.
May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours!

An Irish Proverb



Summer 2013 found us in warm, sunny Ireland.

"We don't normally stock sunscreen!"

'RoadScholar' introduced us to Irish dance, song, theatre, literature, farming, fishing, weaving, geology, history, cuisine, humor, story-telling, poetry, limericks, and their legendary Irish hospitality.

"The scenery wasn't bad either ..."







In Columbia, Heather & John continued to work to make homes more beautiful and functional while Diana & Tom strove to help people appreciate fine art and clean water.

All cultivated vegetable gardens and enjoyed the benefits of rich harvests for their culinary pursuits. Diana & Tom even built a coop and raised chickens.

"We average about 2 eggs per day."

H_2O'C Engineering, now in its 20th year, still consults for municipal water utilities. *"Conserve more water!"*

As member of Columbia's Water & Light Board, Tom also advocates for conservation and expanded use of solar photovoltaics.

"Both make economic sense,
are non-polluting and
keep money in our community."

This year, my family bought me a lighter bicycle that I enjoy riding on the Katy Trail with friends.
I still exercise, volunteer, and work with the Boone County League of Women Voters.

John & I partake of many of the cultural opportunities that Columbia affords.

"Where to this evening?"





Warm, sunny, green, friendly Ireland - 2013

An Autumn Tour of the Southeastern U.S.

Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Southern Illinois.



Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas

William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Library. Little Rock, Arkansas



Museum of American History with Sunny & Chuck Marek of Vestavia Hills, Alabama

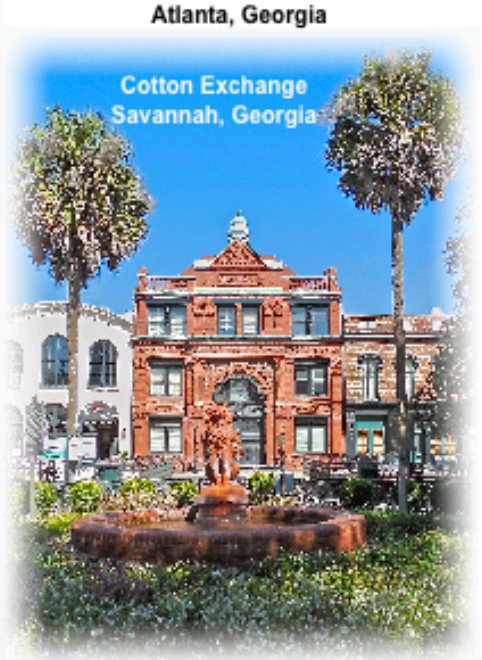


Middleton Place & Magnolia Plantations, South Carolina





World's largest Aquarium, Atlanta, Georgia

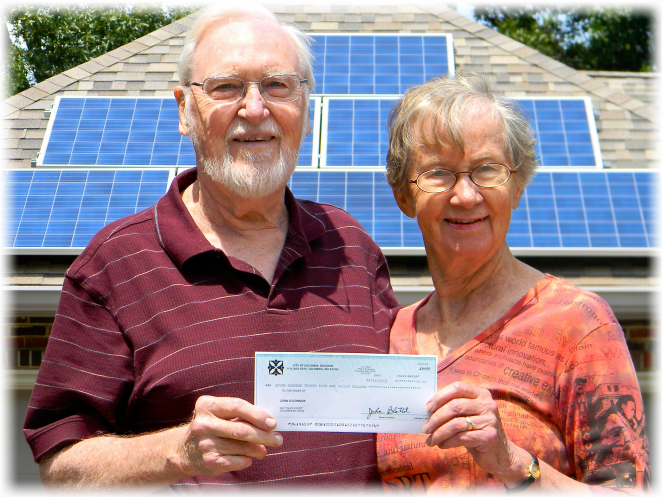


♭Here Comes the Sun ...♯

Tom designed and installed solar panels while we were on vacation this summer. Our modest 1.5 kW system sits quietly atop our garage pumping electrons into our home whenever it is light outside.

Columbia's Water & Light Dept. graciously facilitated our project by providing a healthy rebate and installing a *'Solar'* electric meter; one which records both energy *'purchased from'* and *'returned to'* their grid.

*"The panels come with a **25**-year warranty."*







John's 80th Birthday Celebration, Columbia Art League, February 11, 2013

"I plan to live forever -- so far, so good." Steven Wright

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Merry 2014 Christmas

We hope you have enjoyed another eventful and exciting year with your family and good friends - - and that you will again share these precious holidays with those you cherish the most.









This year, we toured **Alaska**

by Alaska Railroad
Fairbanks *'land of the midnight sun'*
Denali National Park moose, bears, caribou, Dahl sheep, ptarmigan
Talkeetna (Natl. Historic Site) museums, ranger station, expeditions.

by UnCruise Ship*-(Inside Passage)* ***Ketchikan*** *to* ***Juneau***
Tongass National Forest**:** fjords, waterfalls, muskegs, seaplanes
Glacier Bay**:** whales, skiffs, kayaks, eagles, salmon, wolves,..

"We found Alaska to be a sunny, exciting wonderland."









Seattle, Washington

In June, we flew ***West*** with Diana and Tom to experience Seattle's fish- and flower-filled *Pike's Place (Farmer's) Market (1907)*. We rode the *Seattle Center Monorail* to the *Experience Music Project*, the *Chihuly Garden & Glass Museum* and the *Pacific Science Center*.

New York, New York

September, we headed ***East*** with Heather and John. *Times Square, Central Park*, *MOMA, Top-of-the-Rock,* a twilight cruise of Manhattan, *Hell's Kitchen eateries, reunions,* & *Lincoln Center ('the Met')* were only part of our agenda. However, while the 'kids' viewed the spectacular *People's Climate March*, we took refuge in The *Cloisters*.

"We find trips to America's great cities exhilarating, educational & refreshing; not to mention, fattening & expensive."











Fortunately, two of those great cities are in Missouri. So, we journeyed to the

City of Fountains, Kansas City

to enjoy the ambiance and cuisine of *Country Club Plaza* as well as to view the *King Tut* exhibit at Union Station.

"I think he's dead …"

Our trips to **Saint Louis** usually take us on leisurely strolls through the magnificent *Missouri Botanic Gardens* & the *Saint Louis Museums* in Forest Park.

"Do we have time to smell the orchids?"









Quiet Park in Center of Manhattan and Lunch at MOMA

Winter's Flowers



Heather was surprised and elated when her *'winter penstemon'* was judged *Grand Prize Award* winner at *Columbia's Photo Vision Competition and Exhibition*. It was the first time she had entered a photo contest.

"… should I quit now?"

$H_2O'C$: Water - and Solar - Engineering

With Tom assuming most of the 'heavy lifting,' as John characterizes it, John now proudly claims to accompany Tom on their water plant forays. On most days, both can be found at their computers - Tom tending to business while John indulges in electronic reminiscences with old friends.

Exercise, Advocacy & Entertainment

I continue to take full advantage of Columbia's renowned system of trails for biking and hiking as well as its exceptional *Activities and Recreation Center* for Pilates and exercise classes.
Serving on the board of the *League of Women Voters* remains a pleasure as it, increasingly, serves vital roles in our burgeoning community.

John and I both regularly enjoy our multi-college town's eclectic menu of theatre, music, concerts, film festivals, and special events.

"… the really hip content keeps us up-to-date and young."

Beautiful Homes - and Garden

John Leigers' artistry was largely expressed in his innovative designs for home improvements.
Also, along with Heather, he has developed an extensive vegetable garden that provides hearty feedstock for their healthy gourmet cooking.

"… is this stuff kale or chard?"

Water, Sun and Sustainability

Tom has oriented *$H_2O'C$ Engineering* toward a new horizon. Earning certification as a *master electrician*, he designs and manages installations of photovoltaic systems. He has had a busy year as recognition of the necessity for and good economics of accessing solar energy has grown.

"…these systems are scalable, simple, and profitable."

Columbia's Art League Advocate

Increasingly, *Diana* has become the face and, on radio, the voice of Columbia's artistic community. Next February, in the Capitol Rotunda in Jefferson City, Missouri's Governor will present Diana with the *Missouri Arts Council's Arts Organization of 2015 Award* for the Columbia Art League.

Diana also continues to rein in (some of) Tom's initiatives in his pursuit of household energy independence. Their exchanges are chronicled in their *Power Couple* columns that appear twice-monthly in the *Columbia Daily Tribune*.

"… No way! … Are you listening to me?"





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Saint Louis Botanic Garden - Winter Display

A Golden 2015 Anniversary

We hope you have enjoyed another eventful and exciting year with your family and good friends - - and that you will again share the New Year with those you cherish the most.



Grand Canyon

At long last, in our 49th year of peregrination, we journeyed to Sedona, AZ en-route to the Grand Canyon. We rode the rails through Verde Canyon and, then, to the south rim of the Grand Canyon.



San Francisco

Having not fallen into the Canyon, we journeyed on to a city in northern California located on the tip of a peninsula surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay. Known for its hilly landscape, year-round fog, iconic Golden Gate Bridge, cable cars, and colorful Victorian houses, it is also home of our renowned family artists, **Larry and Carol Lippold**.
As part of our brief stay, we toured the Stanford University campus and Art Museum where Larry was teaching a drawing class..

Iceland, Greenland

The summer of 2015 allowed for an exciting trip with dear friends to Iceland and Greenland (pictured). The numerous waterfalls, thermal features and green Icelandic landscapes were visual treats.



A European Tour

John and Heather undertook a well-earned and wide ranging vacation trip that encompassed Amsterdam, Venice, Rome (where they rendezvoused with Larry and Carol, our artist cousins at work), and, finally, Barcelona.

"… We wouldn't mind doing that again!"

Singapore & Sri Lanka

Alternately, *Tom and Diana* elected to celebrate her milestone birthday with a gala party in southeast Asia. Friends from around the world gathered to join in the festivities.

"… This is no way to lose weight!"

A Cow's Valve says "Moo!"

As John's timed walks around our local lakes increased substantially over the previous year, he was diagnosed with *'acute aortic stenosis.'*

"… We didn't know what that was either."

John underwent open heart surgery in December and recovered in time to celebrate our Golden Wedding Anniversary on January 15, 2016.

A Plan for 2016

With John's recovery and continued optimism for the future, we have planned a trip to Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Russia for this coming summer.

As everyone knows, all of us must live life to the fullest while it is still possible.

"Love and fond wishes to all our friends and family for a wonderful 2016."

The O'Connors

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Merry 2016 Christmas



Our Golden Anniversary Travel Celebration

To celebrate our *50 years of marriage*, we decided to learn about Eastern Europe: *Poland, the Baltic Nations & Russia.*

Poland: Krakow, Auschwitz, Warsaw

We toured famous universities and libraries as well as Holocaust sites, churches, graveyards, museums, castles, shops, tourist attractions & innumerable pubs & restaurants.

Lithuania: Vilnius, Klaipeda, Curonian Spit

John's maternal grandmother emigrated from Lithuania in 1871.

Artfully orchestrated by Overseas Adventure Tours, our 16-member group enjoyed expert guides, stunning scenery, efficient travel, plus superb accommodations and cuisines.

Throughout the trip, the pastoral countryside appeared green, wooded, productive & attractive.



Copernicus' Armillary in the Professors' Garden at Jagiellonian University (est. 1364), Krakow



Mural on rear of barbecue restaurant, Vilnius
After 50 years of communist domination, Lithuania, fearing Russian intervention, is now a NATO stalwart.





Latvia **Riga, Central Markets**

We shopped in Riga's sprawling *Central Markets* located within converted German Zeppelin hangars. Built in the 1930s, they are now a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Estonia

tire chair at the ultra-modern KUMU art museum, Tallinn

After a half-century of Soviet repression, the economies of the Baltic nations are steadily recovering, enabling restoration of medieval sites plus dramatic new high-rise construction to modernize the landscape.



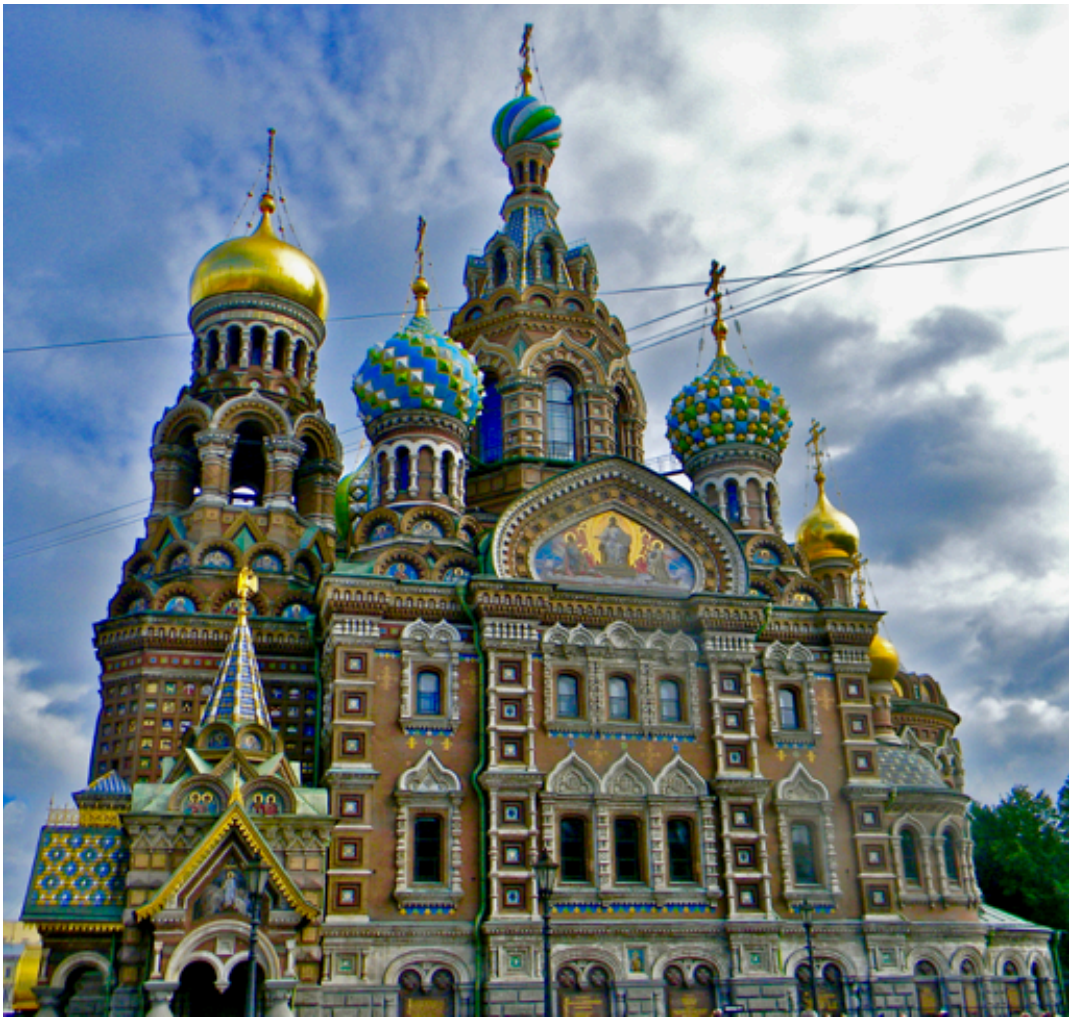
Russia: St. Petersburg **St. Isaac's Cathedral., the Hermitage**

Churches and castles seem gilded from floor to their highest ceilings. So, as you gaze upward among an enrapt throng of camera-wielding sightseers, beware of pickpockets.

Russia: Moscow Red Square, GUM (now, a shopping mall), the Kremlin, Tretyakov & Pushkin Art Galleries

Comparing his visit to Soviet Moscow in 1988 as part of a HUD technical exchange, John was astonished at the kapitalistic metamorphosis of the now business- and tourist-oriented enterprise. The Soviet Union has ended and, for a fee, thousands of tourists now scramble within the once feared Kremlin walls daily, taking cell phone selfies and pausing only for Putin's helicopter landing and passing motorcade.

… nearby, Bentley, Ferrari & Maserati dealerships beckon Russian oligarchs.





Saint Petersburg, Russia - 2016



Colorado & Chicago

Avid outdoor enthusiasts, John & Heather journeyed to Colorado this autumn to visit a friend's animal farm, indulge in scenic treks and breathe the brisk Rocky Mountain air.

Once in a lifetime?

Visiting friends in Chicago,John was invited to attend a Cubs *National League-Championship Series* game at a wildly raucous, beer-fueled, Wrigley Field.

Alternately, Heather sipped wine with the girls.



Viet Nam

Tom also celebrated a **Golden Anniversary** this year. For Tom's 50th 'natality', Diana arranged for friends from around the globe to congregate in Viet Nam. While they enjoyed parties in posh resort hotels, they sometimes stayed in comfortable and convenient local Vietnamese Airbnbs.

… It was refreshing to shop and mingle in town with the Vietnamese (Kihn) people ..…



Back home in Columbia, MO,
life remains placid and serene as Heather and John collaborate to keep apace of their cascade of home renovation projects throughout the city.

Focussed on energy and conservation, Tom has added solar system design to the demands of water quality engineering - even as Diana continues to promote Columbia's arts scene.

… with love and tender help so close by, the Old'Connors remain well-cared and well-provided for.

Finally, as in years gone by, we hope that this holiday season and coming year will bring you joy, happiness and contentment in the company of dear friends and loved ones. Ultimately, we believe, these are the best rewards that life has to offer.

Also, at this time of year, we look forward to having you share a few personal stories of your journey through life. We treasure each card, letter, phone call and electronic message.

… however, while we toot, we don't tweet.

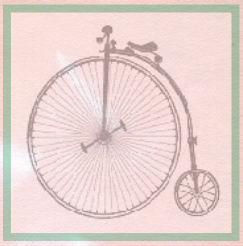
John and Joni O'Connor

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Totality! 2017 Solar Eclipse



This year many wonderful things came to us - right here in mid-Missouri. Dear friends from Illinois & Virginia, as well as newer friends from Spain, journeyed to Columbia to help us celebrate the rare, fleeting (< 3 minutes), & inspirational total solar eclipse of 2017. *"It was a wonderful celestial adventure."*



The solar eclipse provided an opportunity for the 'Biking Babes' to gather from Batavia, Illinois; Blacksburg, Virginia; and Columbia to ride a section of the Katy Trail. Our first ride, when some were first meeting, was in The Netherlands, 32 years ago (1985) when we dubbed ourselves the 'old ladies'. Karen, Sandi, Marcia and I regrouped to mount our metal steeds and pedal to an idyllic rural luncheon venue. *"My butt hurts!."* *"I'm getting hungry!"*





In 1985, the 'old ladies' *'biked the dike'* along Friesland's *'eleven cities'*."

"The Heineken's brewery was en route!" *"Rain gear wear was de rigueur!"*

November brought my brother, Bob, and his wife, Bonnie, from Cape Cod to Columbia for a festive family gathering. They reunited with local friends, toured the Art and Archeology museum, attended a local theater, and...

"... prepared an extraordinary & memorable family dinner!"



Tom and helpers even installed panels on our 130 year old log cabin. *"Now, we can enjoy music, telly & hot water!"*

H2O'C has gone Solar!

Tom has expanded our environmental consulting firm in an exciting new direction this past year with an increased focus on solar system design & installation. Bolstered by local rebates from Columbia's Water & Light Department plus federal tax incentives, homeowners are increasingly realizing that solar energy is a sound long-term investment.

"It also increases a home's market value!"

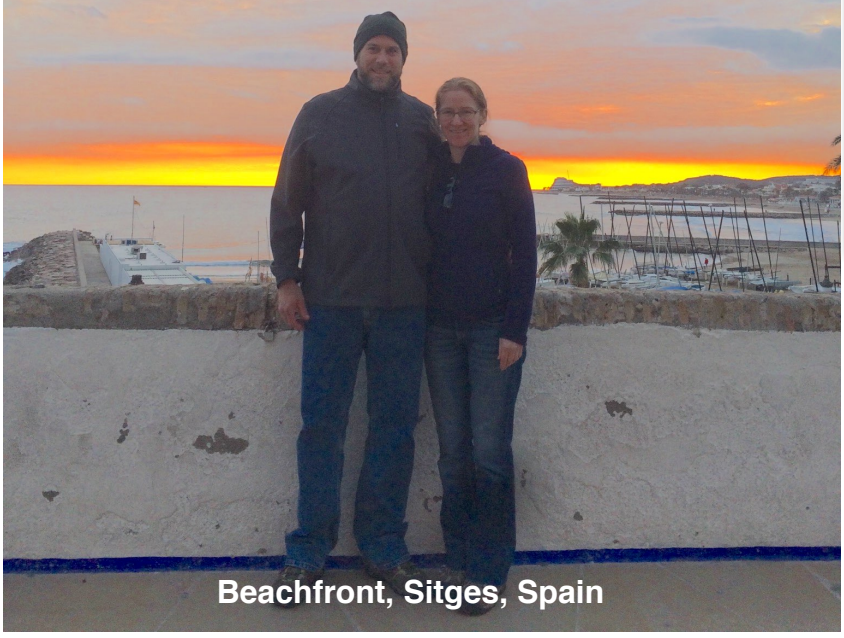
http://www.h2oc.com/sample-page/solar/

Sure and Andorra!

Enamored of Iberia, *John and Heather* have embarked on a December trip to *Sitges, Spain* en-route to an exotic vacation in *Andorra* in the Pyrenees.

"Andorra enjoys the world's seventh-highest alcohol consumption per capita (13.8 liters)."

This past year, J&H have labored together on a wide range of home remodeling projects. Some of their handiwork can be admired at:
http://www.johnleigers.com.



Beachfront, Sitges, Spain





Magic Trees **illuminate many of Columbia's winter snowscapes.**



Diana and Tom host a **Saint Patrick's Day** party annually which features Corned Beef and Cabbage, Irish soda bread, home brewed beer and other notable Irish potables. ***Sláinte!***

John and I continue to enjoy theater plays; dance & music performances; art festivals; museum & botanical garden experiences.

John also continues his monthly escapades with his *Friday Afternoon Drinking and Carousing Association* and *Book Guys* groups. ***"After FADCA, I need a nap!"***





Diana (center) is pictured with CAL Board members and staff. https://columbiaartleague.org

Columbia's Mayor Proclaims!

In recognition of her contributions to our artistic community, Columbia's Mayor, Brian Treece, read a proclamation designating February 17, 2017 as ***"Diana Moxon Day"***.

For a decade now, Diana, has served as Executive Director of the Art League - and organizer of Columbia's major arts cultural event, **'Art in the Park'** *"14,000 this year."*

Despite many accolades, Diana has decided to turn the reins over to a new Executive Director at the end of 2017.

"Love and fond wishes to all our friends and their families for a wonderful 2018."

The O'Connors

For resolute friends, our 51 previous Christmas letters may be viewed at:
http://www.h2oc.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/18-Christmaslite.pdf

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Happy Festasolsthannukwanzmas and Happy New Year from HoJo, y'all!!

For the very first time, we're doing an end of year recap. In 2017, this is what we got up to.

In January, we gathered in the spirit of fighting the good fight.



Spent some time working at the little slice of heaven known as the Lucky U Ranch (a.k.a. Chad and David's place). Enjoyed having some time with Mae, a girl who was exuberant as they come, all the way into her golden years.









Said farewell to Meg Poche (of KOPN and other local notoriety) with a none-too-somber ceremony befitting her larger-than-life personality. Don't let the photo fool you; it was a packed house full of very big love. Megaritas, Megorobilia, and memories.



Got into the spirit of True False with Tina "Smo" Smothers, who came down from Chicago as a first-time festival attendee and totally killed it with her short film at Gimme Truth (also doing a great job breaking the ice for Bryan Babylon's initial stint as host). She also introduced us to her sweetie, the hilarious Will Thimes. Great times! Truth!!





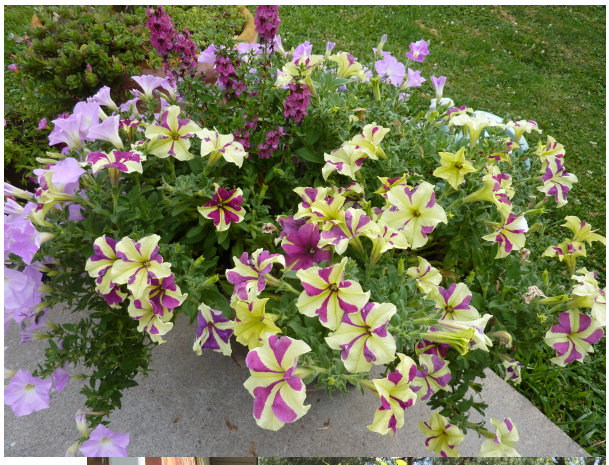


Took care of little Mr. Norman, my dog-walking charge. He and Rosie are besties. Beasty besties.

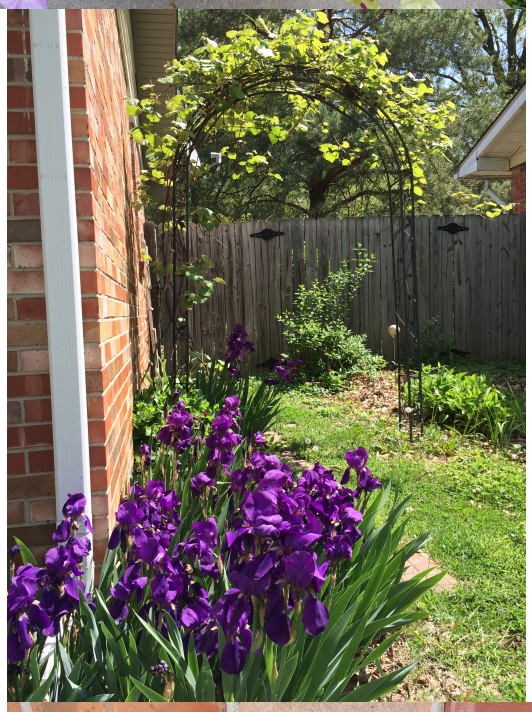
Dog bliss us, every one!

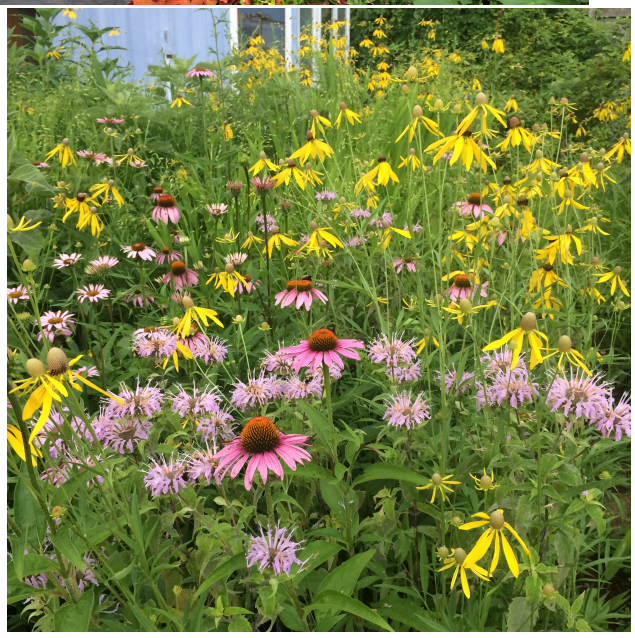














Of course we enjoyed working and playing in the garden.

We did some good work to beautify and improve people's houses.















Enjoying friends, family, nature and its bounty, volunteering.





Said goodbye to Daniel “Pants” Rowden, who was a firestorm of joy, drumming, creativity, sweetness and fun. He shall be missed.







Enjoyed the Missouri River community, with its natural beauty and the occasional appearance of great bands like the Campfire Casettes coming through on their way back to LA.



At about the same time the great solar eclipse swept across the country, we were installing solar panels on our roof. Fortunately the solar outage only lasted 2 minutes or so.







Celebrated the marriage of nephew Brian to our beloved Kelsey.

While in Arkansas, took the opportunity to check out Crystal Bridges art museum in Bentonville, AR. Wow!

Dressed up as our true selves for Halloween, when the veil between worlds is thinnest.











A small project for Chicago friends allowed us another opportunity to enjoy all this great city has to offer. It's always fun to see wonderkitties Seamus and Charlotte the great sock huntress.













At year's end, we plotted to escape the everyday for a while. We visited Catalonia (Barcelona, Sitges, Girona in Spain), the tiny nation of Andorra nestled in the Pyrenees, and the town of Durham England where our friends Kim and Peter make their home.

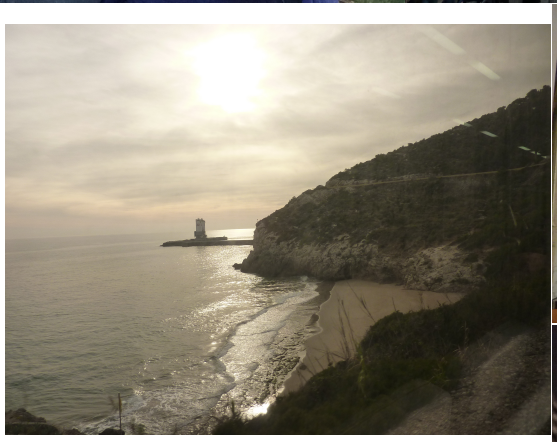


















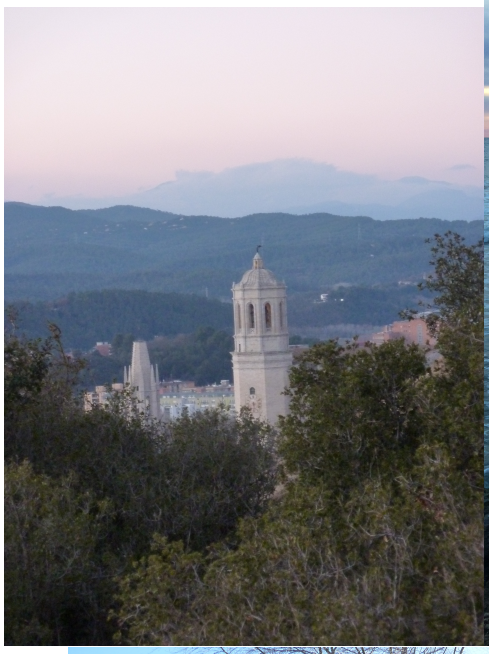


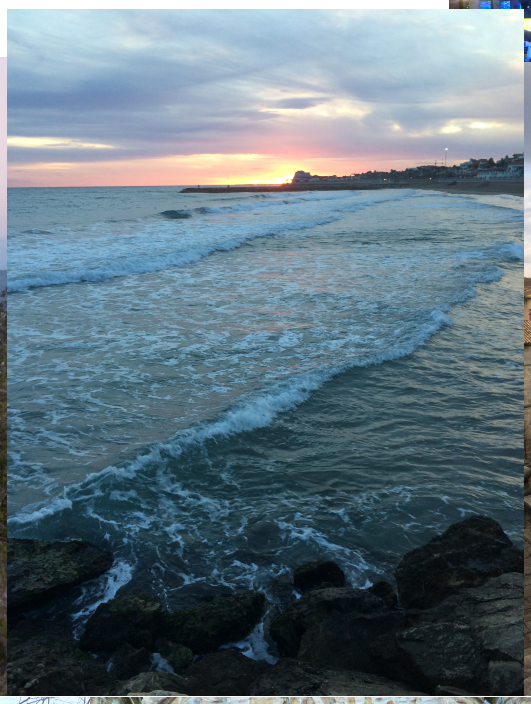
Mountains, the beach, great food, astounding works of architecture and of course wonderful friends old and new made this 11-day whirlwind trip truly special.



















Love, peace, and presence to all. Looking forward to another trip around the sun and to the adventures we will share with you.

NAMASTE

Our Love and 2018 Warm Wishes

We trust you have enjoyed another eventful and exciting year with your family and true friends - and that you will once again share the coming New Year with those you are fondest of and cherish the most.



2018 was another special year for our family. To help Joni celebrate her **80th Natal Day** - and **52nd Wedding Anniversary** - our family set out to explore the wonders of central coastal California.
We toured Carmel, Monterey, Pacific Grove, and Big Sur, drove the Pacific and Central Valley highways, and settled in Los Osos, Morro Bay where we connected with our California cousins, Larry and Carol.



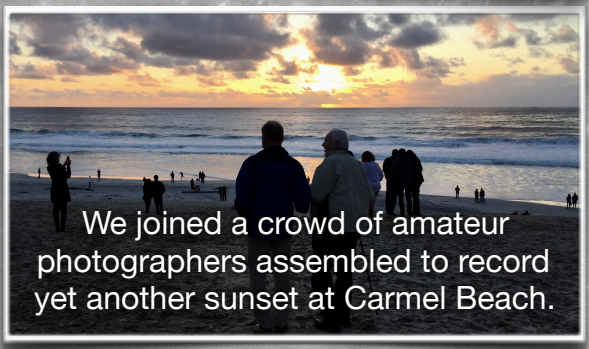
Joni tried on Forrest's shoes in Monterey



The southern Pacific Redwood forest is reportedly in decline.



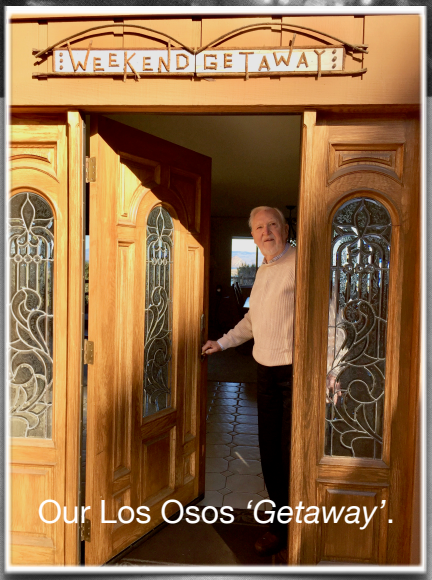
Diana surveyed the Monterey Bay fleet. All the boats looked alike -- expensive.



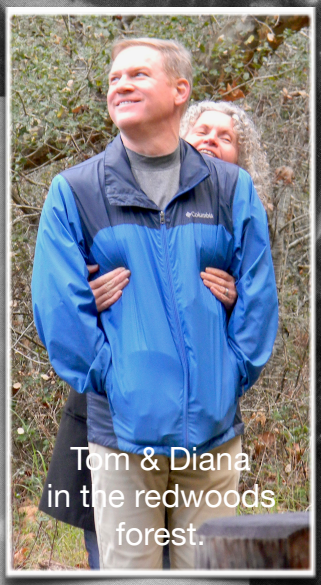
We joined a crowd of amateur photographers assembled to record yet another sunset at Carmel Beach.



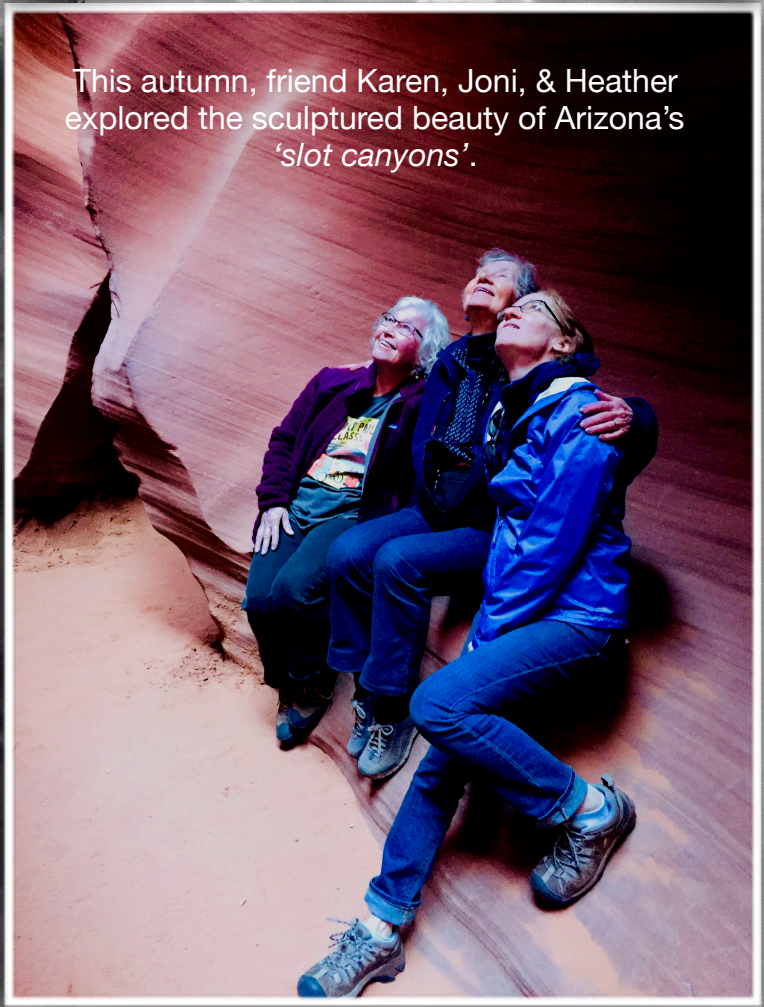
John O, Joni, Tom, Diana, Heather, John L after luncheon at Big Sur.



Our Los Osos *'Getaway'*.



Tom & Diana in the redwoods forest.



This autumn, friend Karen, Joni, & Heather explored the sculptured beauty of Arizona's *'slot canyons'*.



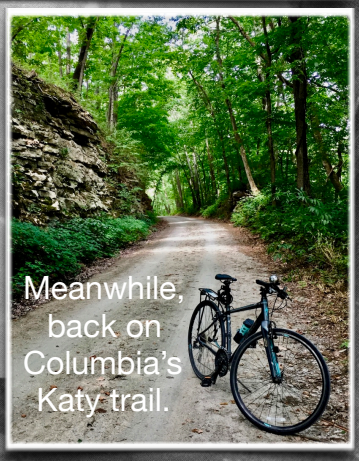


Heather gives scale to a large hoodoo.





October snowfall at Bryce Canyon, Utah.

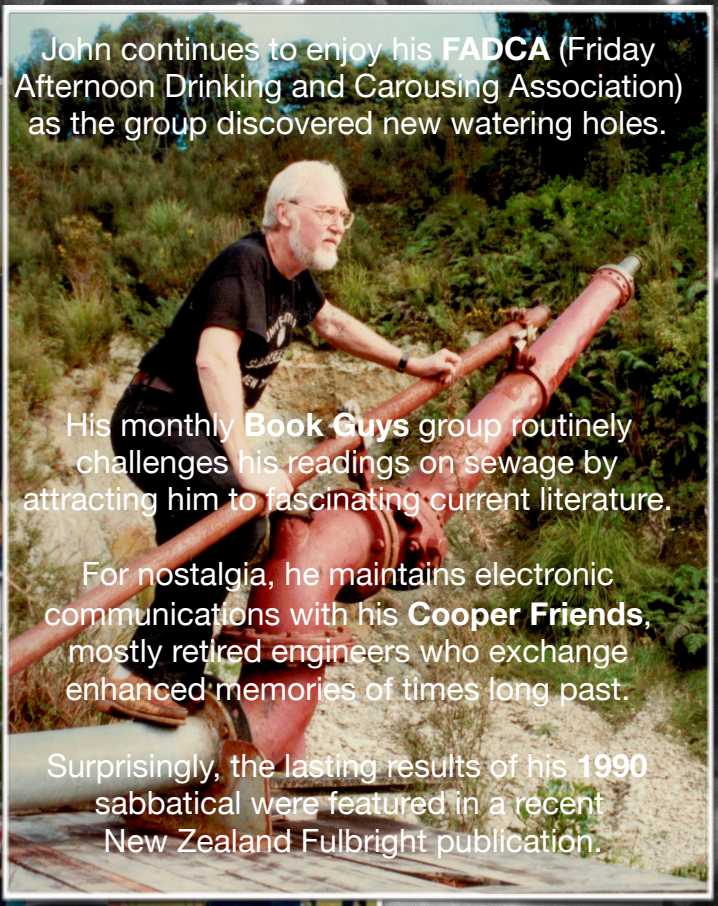


Meanwhile, back on Columbia's Katy trail.

Joni was recognized for her long and dedicated service to the Columbia/Boone County LWV.



John continues to enjoy his **FADCA** (Friday Afternoon Drinking and Carousing Association) as the group discovered new watering holes.



His monthly **Book Guys** group routinely challenges his readings on sewage by attracting him to fascinating current literature.

For nostalgia, he maintains electronic communications with his **Cooper Friends**, mostly retired engineers who exchange enhanced memories of times long past.

Surprisingly, the lasting results of his **1990** sabbatical were featured in a recent New Zealand Fulbright publication.



In addition to designing residential and commercial systems, Tom brought solar to Columba's '**Roots and Blues' Festival**, providing some free energy for his guitar, amplifier & hip-mounted speakers.

After years of service, Heather is relinquishing her Board and Secretary positions for our local community radio station, **KOPN**.

Diana's affiliation with **KOPN** is hosting a weekly, hour-long review called ***'Speaking of the Arts'.*** She interviews artists of all stripes who have entered Columbia's local art scene.

You can hear her here!
https://www.kopn.org/programs/speaking-of-the-arts/



And, as ever, our fond wishes go to all our friends and their families for a wonderful 2019.

The O'Connors

All 52 Christmas greetings may be seen at:
http://www.h2oc.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/18-Christmaslite.pdf

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